

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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THREE AREA PRESIDENTS HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE

PY272134 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2000 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Montevideo, 27 May (TELAM) -- Argentine President Raul Alfonsin confirmed here today that he has been discussing the possibility of calling a "summit" of presidents of the Consensus of Cartagena with his Uruguayan and Brazilian counterparts, Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Jose Sarney.

The summit, which could be held before the end of this year, will be primarily designed to discuss the Latin American foreign debt, and promote efforts to have the foreign debt, which has jeopardized the growth of developing countries, treated as a political issue.

Alfonsin made these remarks in a joint press conference he gave here today with his Uruguayan and Brazilian counterparts. The three presidents reaffirmed their decision to continue to demand that the developed nations give fairer treatment to the foreign debt. The three presidents also agreed on conveying their deep concern over the higher interest rates applied to the foreign debt, which has had an adverse impact on the development process of the countries of the region.

In response to a question, Alfonsin emphasized that today, more than ever, it has become an absolute priority to work to obtain fixed interest rates that would have historic significance for the foreign debt. He also reiterated that the developed nations must understand that the foreign debt is a political issue. Alfonsin stated that we must undertake joint action to make others understand that our economic decisions cannot be tied to changes in policies over which we have no control, policies formulated by the developed countries, an example of which is the current trend toward rising interest rates.

In this regard, Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti confirmed today that they had sent a note to the head of the Italian Government, Amintore Fanfani, to convey their concern over the increase in interest rates and its adverse impact on the development of the Latin American countries.

Brazilian President Jose Sarney stated that his country's decision to declare a moratorium on its debt was intended to make the international banks adopt a more flexible position. He announced that a renegotiation of the Brazilian debt will start in 30 days, hoping that renegotiation will lead to more just solutions. In reply to a question, Sarney said that each country must review its debt problems from the standpoint of its own specific interests, but he admitted the need to take joint action to make a firm, overall proposal to the developed nations.

The three presidents expressed satisfaction over the results obtained in the area of economic cooperation, and reaffirmed their decision to continue to promote cooperation in spite of the difficulties that may arise.

Sign Joint Declaration

PY280211 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0010 GMT 28 May 87

["Text" of joint declaration signed by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin; Brazilian President Jose Sarney and Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti on 27 May in Montevideo, Uruguay]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] "The presidents of the Republic of Argentina, Raul Alfonsin; the Federative Republic of Brazil, Jose Sarney; and the Republic of Uruguay, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, held a meeting in Montevideo in response to an invitation by President Sanguinetti. On the occasion of the official visit the president of the Republic of Argentina paid to Uruguay, they held conversations during which they continued the fruitful dialogue they have held on previous occasions at Olivos [the Argentine presidential residence] and in Brasilia.

"On this occasion, the presidents, accompanied by their respective foreign and economy ministers, reviewed the political, economic, and social situation in Latin America and they once again stressed the points of view they share regarding problems that presently concern the region. They expressed their firm determination to continue striving to achieve Latin American peace and cooperation. They agreed to continue supporting the activities of the Contadora Group because they believe diplomatic negotiations are the only possible path that will lead to the achievement of peace, democracy, and development in Central America.

"They also had the opportunity to exchange points of view on the economic cooperation processes that were undertaken by the three governments in keeping with the bilateral agreements that were signed at the appropriate time; and they expressed satisfaction with the progress that has been achieved in this regard as well as their firm decision to do everything they can to safeguard the great objectives established in these agreements which strive to achieve regional integration and cooperation and which constitute the basis of the foreign policies of the three governments.

"They granted special attention and exchanged points of view on the international economic situation and its impact on the foreign debt of their respective countries.

"The three presidents agreed to express their increasing concern over the international situation, particularly regarding increasing protectionist trends, the real and potential withholding of fresh resources from Latin America, and the increase of interest rates. This last issue, in particular, constitutes a serious step backward in the efforts their respective governments are making to achieve economic readjustment. It also threatens to alter in a negative manner those conditions that will allow them to confront the foreign debt problem after long years of sacrifice and a high level of responsibility that all the countries in the region have shown. In this regard, they reasserted the terms that President Sanguinetti, in representation of the member countries of the Cartagena Consensus, sent to the Venice summit.

"The president also reasserted the firm will of their governments to defend democratic institutions and political pluralism fully respecting the exercise of citizens' rights.

MEXICAN OFFICIAL IN BOGOTA FOR AREA TALKS

FL282022 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0402 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Mexico City, 27 May (NOTIMEX) -- Deputy Foreign Secretary Ricardo Valero has traveled to Bogota, Colombia, where the Contadora and Support Group deputy foreign ministers will analyze and evaluate the Central American situation, in light of the peace proposals made by the countries of the region.

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat (SRE) has reported that the Mexican Government believes the Bogota meeting is particularly important, mainly because those attending will be able to coordinate the Central American nations' initiatives and the general process advocated by the Contadora Group.

The SRE added that the deputy foreign ministers will also exchange information and views to establish coordination among the Central American countries in connection with the presidential summit scheduled for late June in Guatemala.

The SRE stated that the deputy foreign ministers will draft a document with the essential points on which the Central American countries coincide. This will help to strengthen dialogue and set up an information and consultation system at the diplomatic level to ensure the summit's success.

UNIVERSITY RADIO STATION ADMITTED TO ULCRA

PA230446 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 May 87 p 10a

[Text] According to the School of Social Communications of the UP [University of Panama], the Executive Council of the Latin American and Caribbean Broadcasting Union (ULCRA) voted at a meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, to admit Stereo University Radio [Radio Estereo Universitaria], the first university radio broadcasting station on FM in Panama, as an active member.

The School of Social Communications stressed that ULCRA is a nonprofit regional organization for permanent consultation, coordination, cooperation, and promotion of public service, nongovernmental, or mixed radio broadcasting activities whose general secretariat is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The report notes that "Stereo University Radio's admission into ULCRA marks the beginning of a new era of revitalization of its programs for the benefit of the listeners of this station because ULCRA's objectives include the establishment of a data bank of radio programs produced in the region, which will be at the disposal of its members for exchange purposes."

ALFONSIN PROPOSES CHANGE TO DUE OBEDIENCE BILL

PY282313 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2030 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 May (DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin today asked the Radical Civic Union [UCR] senators to modify the Due Obedience Bill. According to UCR congressional spokesmen, Alfonsin's proposed modification is designed to establish a 30-day period during which the courts will have to resolve the cases of Army colonels and brigadier generals, as well as of their counterparts in the Navy and in the Air Force, who could benefit from the Due Obedience Bill.

The modification means that the courts will have to resolve during the 30-day period whether the Due Obedience Bill will be applied to senior officers in those specified ranks who were either in command or were merely following orders.

The proposal is being discussed by opposition blocs and will later be discussed by the UCR Senate bloc, some members of which are opposed to it.

Legislators Reject Proposal

PY290156 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2228 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 May (DYN) -- Reliable sources have reported that the UCR bloc in the Senate today weathered a difficult situation when it almost split into two very different factions as a result of President Alfonsin's decision to expand the scope of the Due Obedience Bill.

The UCR deputies are now facing a similar problem, although their situation is less difficult because they do not have to vote on the modification tonight, the source said.

The UCR senators debated the modification at a meeting held at about noon today after Alfonsin personally announced the intended modification. The meeting was held at the Casa Rosada, and was attended by Senators Antonio Napoli, Ricardo Lafferriere, Fernando de la Rúa, Antonio Berhongaray, and Hector Velazquez, Vice President Victor Martinez, and Deputies Juan Carlos Pugliese and Leopoldo Moreau, among others.

[Words indistinct] Radical senators held a tense and sometimes heated meeting. During the meeting, six or seven congressmen "refrained" from supporting Alfonsin's decision, and said that "this decision is a new concession to the pressures exerted by the military."

The senators' discontent was best shown when Misiones Senator Jose Falsone, a noted human rights defender, moved his fellow senators by saying in a faltering voice: "Please do not ask me anything else, or you will force me to [words indistinct]." The other senators who also criticized the decision to expand the scope of the Due Obedience Bill were Adolfo Gass, Margarita Malharro de Torres, Ricardo Lafferriere, Hipolito Solari Irigoyen, Antonio Berhongaray, and Manuel del Villar.

The source reported that the disagreements were so intense that, to avoid the risk of a split, the congressmen adjourned the meeting to allow their emotions to calm down.

The meeting should have resumed at 1600, but the senators went to Government House, where they held a closed-door meeting with President Alfonsin in an attempt to reach a consensus on the proposed modification.

The source added that some 40 deputies of the ruling party have said they will not accept this modification to the bill, and that, for some days now, the deputies have been privately expressing their rejection of this proposal.

When the original text of the bill was voted on, the chairman of the Chamber of Deputies said that his bloc would not agree "to have anything added" to the text.

SENATE LACKS QUORUM TO DEBATE DUE OBEDIENCE BILL

PY290240 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0045 GMT 29 May 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 May (DYN) -- UCR bloc leader Antonio Napoli is now holding a crucial meeting with his Peronist colleagues Eduardo Menem and Juan Carlos Romero. Napoli is trying to convince at least one of the Peronist legislators to join the Senate floor so the Senate can begin discussing the Due Obedience Bill.

As of 2130 local time, there were only 23 senators in the Senate, whereas a minimum of 24 senators is needed for a quorum so a session can be convened.

Present on the Senate floor in addition to the 18 UCR senators are: 2 representatives from the San Juan Blockist Party; 2 senators from the Corrientes Autonomous and Liberal Pact; and Senator Rogelio Nieves from the Peronist Orthodox Movement.

JOINT STAFF HEAD PREVENTS OFFICER'S POSTING

PY281350 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1154 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 May (DYN) -- Chief of the Joint Staff Brigadier General Teodoro Waldner has refused to allow Lieutenant Colonel Gustavo Martinez Zuviria, who was involved in the Holy Week incidents, to assume his post in the Joint Staff because he considers him "to be a controversial individual."

People close to the officer have said that Martinez Zuviria, who was posted to the Inspector's Office of the Cavalry before the crisis, assumed his post at the Joint Staff on 26 May. The sources have stated that after carrying out a series of administrative tasks, Martinez Zuviria presented himself to General Waldner, who told him that he would not allow him on the premises.

People close to Martinez Zuviria have said that "General Waldner told him that he did not want him on the Joint Staff because he considers him to be a controversial individual." They stated that "in view of this situation, the lieutenant colonel saluted, withdrew, picked up his things and left the building as quickly as possible."

They stated that Martinez Zuviria went immediately to the Libertador Building, the seat of the Army General Staff. The sources concluded by saying that "no one could give him an answer and that their bewilderment was very great."

JUDGE BANS PAID ADVERTISEMENT 'EULOGIZING' VIDELA

PY251839 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 May 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Judge Martin Izurzun yesterday banned the publication of a paid advertisement "eulogizing (former military President Jorge Rafael) Videla." The ad was scheduled to be published in the CLARIN, LA NACION, CRONICA, AMBITO FINANCIERO, and LA PRENSA dailies today.

Izurzun thus accepted charges by the UTPBA [expansion unknown] press union together with the SGA printers and SIVENDIA news vendors unions that the paid ad "encouraged and eulogized crime." Article 213 of the Criminal Code prohibits the publication of ideas which constitute "an apology of crime."

The ad, which had more than 4,500 signatures, "abused the constitutional guarantee of freedom to publish ideas, which is limited by law" according to the plaintiffs.

The text of the ad expresses solidarity with Videla and "all the members of the military and security forces who defended the nation against subversive aggression."

The judge applied Article 213 in view of the fact that Videla was sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes "committed in the circumstances mentioned in the paid ad."

Defence Secretary Alfredo Mosso yesterday said the Due Obedience Bill exempting middle-ranking officers from responsibility for human rights crimes committed during the military regime "will suffice to reconcile the Armed Forces with Argentine society."

Mosso pointed out the bill will help to restore the "natural" chain of command in the forces and bring back the order and discipline lacking during the Holy Week rebellions.

The defence secretary denied the bill would promote impunity and warned the government does not want to encourage revenge or deepen existing conflicts.

He said President Alfonsin had a free hand in deciding to promote the bill and discarded as "malicious" rumours that the government was acting under military pressure.

Radical senators were meanwhile busy attracting the vote of senators from provincial parties in order to ensure a speedy approval for the bill. Senate minority leader Antonio Napoli (Radical-Rio Negro) was reportedly negotiating the vote of Corrientes Autonomist Senator Gabriel Feris over the weekend in an effort to tilt the balance of votes in the Radicals' favour.

Feris is known to favour a pardon to include high-ranking officers "who had no say in the organization of anti-subversive operations."

But, reliable sources suggested that Feris was pressed by the difficult financial situation in the Corrientes Provincial Bank and would be willing to vote in favour of the due obedience bill in order to avoid an inspection by the Central Bank, which could spark a financial crisis in his province.

The Radicals would thus have the support of their 18 senators plus San Juan Bloquistas Leopoldo Bravo and Francisco Gil, as well as the decisive support of Feris.

The 21 votes would suffice to sanction the bill given that only 41 of the 46 senators are expected to attend the debate on Wednesday. Peronist Senators Liliana Gurdulich (Santa Fe) and Alberto Rodriguez Saa (San Luis) will be in Colombia while Luis Rubeo (Santa Fe) is travelling through Europe. Neuquen Popular Movement Senators Jorge Solana and Elias Sapag are also expected to be absent that day.

The government is reportedly anxious to sanction the bill in order to avoid any more situations in which middle-ranking officers refuse to attend court summonses, thus sparking a further crisis.

Radical Senator Fernando de la Rúa (Capital) yesterday urged the population "to replace rancour for a genuine feeling of justice" and voiced the opinion that "responsibility (for human rights crimes) should rest on those who gave the orders."

The Radical senator said the fight against subversion was "necessary, despite being carried out in a negative way" and pointed out it was the guerrillas "who brought violence to the country."

CAPUTO DEPARTS FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FRANCE

PY290144 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2223 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 May (TELAM) -- This afternoon, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo left for Czechoslovakia and France. At Ezeiza airport, Caputo said his agenda in Prague will be political in nature. He added that in France he will meet with the French president and principal political leaders, as well as discuss the purchase of locomotives and telephone exchanges and the installation of 600,000 telephone lines to replace the remaining obsolete line now in service in Argentina.

Caputo told journalists that his trip will last 10 days and that in France he will join President Alfonsín, who will begin a European tour by attending the ILO conference in Geneva.

While in France, Caputo will conduct economic, scientific, and cultural talks. He will discuss the possibility of purchasing locomotives and for contracting French firms to replace 600,000 obsolete telephone lines now in use.

Caputo will also look into the possibility of having some telephone exchanges installed in the interior of the country and of undertaking other infrastructure projects in the communications sector.

Caputo revealed that he is visiting Prague following an invitation extended to him by his Czechoslovak counterpart 2 years ago and that his agenda will be political in nature.

BOMB EXPLOSION REPORTED IN CONGRESS PARKING LOT

PY281841 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 May 87

[Excerpt] An explosion, of unknown origin, took place shortly before noon very near Congress in a parking lot under the Congress Plaza, which allegedly resulted in one person being slightly wounded, according to information disclosed by the chief of Police Station No 6, police officer Omar Pireli. Mobile Unit No 1 of Radio Nacional is now at the site of the explosion. We now have a report by (Nestor Ucedo)

[Begin relay] Good afternoon, and thank you very much. As you were saying, an explosion took place here at the parking lot under the Congress Plaza. Shortly before noon, at approximately 1145, a loud explosion was heard under the Congress plaza. It is believed that the noise was caused by an explosive device but this has still not been confirmed. [end relay] [passage omitted]

Judge Comments on Explosion

PY281904 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1820 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 May (TELAM) -- Trial Judge Emilio Garcia Mendez has confirmed that a bomb explosion caused the fire at the underground parking lot under the Congress Plaza. He added that some 50 cars were destroyed by the fire.

The judge, who visited the site of the incident to see the damage caused by the explosion and the fire, stated that it is obvious that this represents an attempt to intimidate Congress, due to the subjects that will be discussed today.

In remarks to Radio "Del Plata," Garcia Mendez stated that all measures provided for by the code of proceedings have been taken to determine the cause and the instigators of the explosion.

2 UCR PARTY PREMISES BOMBED, NO CASUALTIES

PY281530 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1244 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Rosario, 28 May (NA) -- Two UCR premises were attacked early this morning with explosive devices. The explosions caused some damage, but there were no victims. The UCR will hold its internal elections here on 31 May.

The first attack was against the UCR's Scientific and Literary Circle, located on the corner of Superi and Zelaya Streets. The explosion damaged the blinds of the premises.

The Circle supports Horacio Uzandizaga, the mayor of this city, who has Luis Caceres as an adversary. Caceres is a national deputy and he is running for governor.

The other attack was against party offices located at 101 Rueda Street, where doors and windows were damaged. This precinct supports Caceres and Anibal Reinaldo, president of the Mortgage Bank.

BRIEFS

SOVIET COOPERATION EXPECTED -- Buenos Aires, 19 May (EFE) -- According to the agreements signed by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin during his last visit to the USSR in 1986, a group of Soviet enterprises will participate in the construction of four hydroelectric turbines for the "Piedra de Aguila" Dam. In addition to the four turbines, the project also involves the construction of generators and electric transformers which are to be installed in the hydroelectrical complex. The Soviet enterprise "Energomasheksport" will handle 40 percent of the project, while an Argentine consortium will handle the rest. Spokesmen for the Argentine enterprises estimate that the first turbine will start operating in late 1990 while the other three will start operating in 1992. The "Piedra de Aguila" Dam will be built in Neuquen Province, some 1,300 km southwest of Buenos Aires. [Text] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0158 GMT 20 May 87 PY]

FURTHER ON MINERS, GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Strike Reportedly Over

PY281252 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 May 87

[By Edwin Perez]

[Text] Miners last night decided to end their hunger strike and lift the coercive measures after the problem affecting the sector was solved. This decision is included in one of the paragraphs of an agreement reached with the government at about 2300. The agreement ends a stoppage that lasted approximately 2 months, and facilitates the implementation of the plan to reactivate the mining sector.

Last night's meeting was attended by Mines Minister Jaime Villalobos, Information Minister Herman Antelo, Bolivian Mining Corporation [COMIBOL] officials, and leaders of the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers.

The main paragraphs of the agreement establish that the government will set in motion all the stages of the plan to reactivate COMIBOL, including personnel relocation. For their part, miners agree to end the hunger strike and other coercive measures. The executive branch will agree to enforce the salary scale drawn up by COMIBOL representatives, and to improve contract provisions for the productive mines.

As for the operation of the Catavi mining enterprise, the agreement establishes that workers will disassemble the equipment to transfer it to other productive locations, in line with the strategy of reactivation planned by the COMIBOL and the Mines Ministry.

There was a cordial atmosphere last night, a change from the intense negotiations that government officials and mine leaders held in the last few weeks. It has been said this will be a fundamental step toward solving all the social problems generated by the solidarity that other labor sectors conveyed to miners.

The Bolivian Labor Confederation will issue an official statement in the next few hours announcing whether it will lift its coercive measures.

Groups To Maintain Roadblocks

PY281354 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Cochabamba peasants in the last few hours decided to maintain the roadblocks in strategic spots of the department. The decision was made after a lengthy meeting with Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran during his visit to Cochabamba. Our correspondent in Cochabamba filed this report:

[Begin relay by correspondent] This is the Radio Panamericana correspondent in Cochabamba. Peasant leaders have officially announced the decision to maintain the roadblocks to the end. The roadblocks in Cochabamba are being maintained by three peasant groups in Parotani, on the Oruro Highway, (Tutimayu), on the Chapare Highway, and [words indistinct] in Angostura, on the Santa Cruz Highway. Each group is comprised of between 13,000 and 15,000 peasants.

'Radio Panamericana has been waiting for the peasants' answer, which was to be released at 1800, according to what was agreed upon with Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran, who met peasant leaders at the department's prefect office at noon.

This information has been confirmed by peasant leader (Pedro Montano):

[Begin (Montano) recording] Good evening Radio Panamericana. I convey greetings to my fellow peasants all over Bolivia. I want to report on what is happening in our department. Three general roadblocks are being maintained [words indistinct]. However, we also want to say that in view of the minister's intention to clear the roadblocks through repression, and taking into account that the dialogue was suspended because of the minister's position. We contacted the rank-and-file, who decided to maintain their original position. Therefore, fellow peasants, we believe that you should bear in mind that our objectives are to preserve the national interest, particularly our natural resources, like the coca leaves. [end recording]

In the meantime, the prefect is now holding a meeting with top-ranking military commanders, awaiting a decision from the ongoing meeting that President Victor Paz is holding with his Cabinet, in order to clear the highways.

We reiterate that peasant leaders have announced that the decision to continue with the roadblocks will be maintained to the end. This is the peasants' official reply to the government. This has been the Radio Panamericana correspondent in Cochabamba. [end relay]

This report was filed late last night. Unfortunately, Cochabamba peasants have decided to maintain the roadblocks to the end.

Campesinos Clash With Police

PY281403 Paris AFP in Spanish 1259 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] La Paz, 28 May (AFP) -- Leaders of the Special Federation of Campesino Workers of Chapare [Federacion Especial de Trabajadores Campesinos del Chapare] have reported from Cochabamba that several campesinos have been wounded and an undetermined number have been detained in the Chapare region, in central Bolivia, when they clashed early this morning with police and military forces while the peasants were blocking roads.

The same sources also stated that the arrested individuals were taken to Cochabamba, the department's capital.

Peasant, Soldier Killed

PY281819 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 May 87

[Excerpt] A tense atmosphere has settled in Cochabamba after police and 7th Army troops removed the roadblocks. According to our correspondent, there was a shoot-out before the troops could control the situation. A peasant and an Army soldier died in the clash. (Oscar Osman Ordonez), our correspondent in Cochabamba, talked with top peasant leader Julio Rocha, who has gone underground.

[Begin Rocha recording] I thank you for giving me this chance to address the Bolivian public and report another attack from the ADN-MNR [Nationalist Democratic Action - Revolutionary Nationalist Movement] government.

Without any consideration for our fellow campesinos, who were struggling to defend the national interest and [words indistinct] of coca growers, without talking (?with me), an order was issued this morning to break the [words indistinct] injuring several people.

I also want to report to the people that some 250 peasant leaders have been arrested. There are more injured in the group on the Cochabamba-Chapare Highway, in the (Tuquimayo) region, where (?the injured) were kicked and removed, [words indistinct] while others were dropped from the bridge into the river.

There are many other cases to report, for example in Tarotani. [end recording]
[passage omitted]

Minister Antelo on Situation

PY281921 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 May 87

[Relay from Government House by Cristina Corrales]

[Text] Information Minister Herman Antelo has said that the country is going through a difficult situation. In fact, two people have died, one of them recruit Carlos Caballero Juarez and the other a still-unidentified civilian. The minister said the 500 people were arrested, according to the following breakdown: a group of Army deserters, a group of some 60 cocaine paste producers, a group of people linked to drug trafficking, and a group of peasants and settlers of the region. Here is the official report released at Government House a few minutes ago.

[Begin recording] [Antelo] According to information we received at noon today, military and police troops have cleared all the highways to and from the city of Cochabamba, among them the highways to Santa Cruz, La Paz, Oruro, and Chapare.

Unfortunately, during the action a recruit died of bullet wounds. He was shot by peasants in Tarotani, 40 km from the highway to Oruro. The recruit's name is Carlos Caballero Juarez. A civilian, who has not yet been identified, has also died. (?One person) was slightly injured. There are still doubts as to who killed the civilian, because the soldiers reacted only after they were attacked by groups at the Parotani Bridge. The peasants have said that their leaders have strongly pressured them to join the roadblocks, even under the threat of losing their land. There are 500 detainees, 50 of whom have already been identified as cocaine paste producers; that is, criminals who do not merely grow coca leaves but who produce cocaine paste. Thirty Army deserters and 30 men who failed to report to render their military service have also been detected among the detainees.

The detainees are being investigated to determine whether they will be handed over to the courts or be released if no major charges are leveled against them.

Finally, I would like to add that the peasants at all the roadblock locations have asked to be taken home. The Cochabamba authorities are now complying with this request.

[Reporter] Could you tell us the name of the peasant who died, and could you tell us whether all Bolivian highways are opened?

[Antelo] The dead civilian has not yet been identified because he was not carrying his identification card, and none of the detainees identified him. Investigations are underway. As for the highways, I told you that according to the information we received at noon today, all roads are opened. [end recording]

Antelo was then consulted on the possibility of the government declaring a state of siege, which the interior minister mentioned a few hours ago. Minister Antelo said it is not necessary to declare a state of siege now. The most important thing now is to remain calm, because the situation is under control, he remarked.

The minister was then asked: Doesn't the government fear that violence can elicit more violence? Antelo replied: Even with that risk, the government is determined to impose order, putting an end to the roadblocks, which are totally unjustified.

These comments were made by the minister at Government House a few minutes ago.

President Paz Estenssoro has already left for his house.

Leader Charges 'Massacre'

PY281923 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Following the deplorable events that occurred early today as the roadblocks were being removed in Cochabamba, Peasant Workers Confederation Public Relations Officer Victor Morales has leveled the following charges:

[Begin Morales recording] The Bolivian Single Peasant Confederation, along with the Tropical Cochabamba Workers Federation [Federacion de Trabajadores del Tropico de Cochabamba] want to inform the Bolivia people and the world public that the Bolivian Army, on orders from President Victor Paz Estenssoro, conducted a new massacre on 28 May. This shows once again that the president wants to murder those who demand a decent lifestyle for the people, who demand justice, and who defend their jobs and their economy. The massacre took place in Parotani, at approximately 0700 today, when two fellow peasants were killed by the murderous bullets of the Bolivian Army and police.

We also want to report that we deplore the death of a soldier who inadvertently shot himself with his own (?SIC) rifle. We ask the International Red Cross to immediately perform an autopsy, in order to prevent the Army from charging that the peasants killed the soldier. It is surely a peasant [word indistinct] in that situation.

We want to report that 3 peasants were injured, one in the leg, one in the ankle, and one in the arm. More than 500 peasants are being held at the Cochabamba International Fair site. [end recording]

Minister Reports Autopsy

PY290328 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 May 87

[Text] Information Minister Herman Antelo has released the official version of the incident at Parotani, Cochabamba Department, where a peasant was killed by a gun wound in the neck by a 22-caliber revolver. Authorities presume that the 45-year-old peasant was killed by one of his own comrades.

The report was released to the press at the end of the autopsy performed on the peasant by Cochabamba forensic surgeon (Ruben Julio Sarbo) and witnessed by court official (Alvaro Nedici). Minister Antelo, the official government spokesman commented.

[Begin Antelo recording] At noon today I expressed my doubts about the source of the gunshot that killed the peasant. The autopsy in Cochabamba has just ended. It was witnessed by court officials and the press itself. The evidence shows that the peasant died from a 22-caliber revolver gunshot fired from behind, since the bullet entered the back of the neck.

This proves that the forces of order did not kill the peasant. First, because neither the police nor the Armed Forces use 22-caliber guns, and second because the shot came from behind, from among the ranks of his own comrades. We believe this to be very important because it dismisses a series of rumors which said [words indistinct] a soldier. This shows that it was not the soldiers, but the peasants themselves -- one of his own comrades -- who fired the murder weapon. [end recording]

Regarding reports from the Single Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers that there were more people killed in the clash between the Army and the peasants, the minister said that only (Carlos Salvador Cuervo) and peasant Ponciano Salazar were killed, and the autopsy was made of the latter. Commenting on the 500 people who were arrested during the incidents, the minister said the following:

[Begin Antelo recording] These people are being investigated. We have had reports that some of them are involved in drug trafficking. Others instigated the roadblocks. These people have been placed at the disposal of the courts. The remainder will be released, or taken to their hometowns and released. [end recording]

PRESIDENT SARNEY DEPARTS FOR URUGUAY 27 MAY

PY271201 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1148 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Brasilia, 27 May (EFE) — President Jose Sarney departed today for Montevideo for a 7-hour visit to Uruguay.

The Brazilian Air Force plane carrying the president departed at 1040 GMT from the Brasilia airport.

In Montevideo, Sarney will meet with Uruguayan President Julio Mario Sanguinetti and Argentine President Raul Alfonsin.

Sarney will return today to Sao Paulo, where he will undergo a routine medical examination, according to Planalto Palace sources.

Returns, Receives Checkup

PY281334 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 May 87

[Health bulletin released by the Sao Paulo Heart Institute at end of President Sarney's checkup on 27 May]

[Text] President Sarney has been submitted to clinical, cardiological, neurological, and gastroenterological tests. He was also submitted to the following complementary exams: electrocardiogram; duplex echo-cardiogram, which is a complete study of the heart; dynamic electro-cardiography; computerized tomography; and laboratory blood analysis.

After an assessment of the results, the medical team that conducted the exams on President Sarney concluded that his state of health is normal.

The bulletin is signed by Dr (Vicente Amato Netto), superintendant of the Clinics Hospitals, and Dr Messias de Awaujo, who is President Sarney's private physician.

FINANCE MINISTER SEEKS TO END DEBT MORATORIUM

PY272342 Rio de Janeiro O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 May 87 p 20

[By Jorge Rosa]

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Bresser Pereira intends to present his macroeconomic program to the IMF once it is completed. The program will be submitted as a letter of intent since the minister will write the document "just to meet IMF requirements." He thus expects to create the necessary conditions to resume negotiations with the creditor banks and "to suspend the moratorium as soon as possible."

Bresser Pereira said that his program should be ready around 20 June and that he will then travel to the United States together with Central Bank President Fernando Milliet. The minister will go to Washington to make contact with government officials and Milliet will go to New York to talk with the bankers. [passage omitted]

PLANNING MINISTER DISCUSSES INFLATION RATE FIGURES

PY271540 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] Planning Minister Anibal Teixeira believes that setting a new date for the release of the monthly inflation rate will be advantageous. The government is seeking this new date, and this idea is being studied by Planning Minister Anibal Teixeira. Teixeira met today with IBGE [Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute] President Edison Nunes, to discuss this matter.

The minister believes that fixing a new date will help to remove the psychological factors which push inflation upwards. Teixeira explains:

[Begin recording] In fact, the latest inflation rate was caused by psychological factors. The fact that the IBGE makes two releases a month -- it first releases preliminary information for use by the Central Bank, and then later confirms it -- actually stimulates inflation. It is, therefore, desirable to have one date on which to release the final information. This date must be discussed with all interested parties, even with the labor leaders. [end recording]

Minister Teixeira said that this change will not cause any trouble for the capital market, and noted that the release of information only once a month will help to contain price speculation. The minister estimates that inflation will be about 20 percent in May.

BUSINESSMEN VIEW POSSIBILITY OF RECESSION

PY272309 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 May 87 p 49

[Text] The main Brazilian industrial sectors have given clear signs that the Brazilian economy is entering a recession. The government itself has already admitted this, but it has not taken any measures to reverse the trend which has been repeatedly noted by prominent business leaders. While the government remains idle and powerless, unable to compose a plan to bring order to the economy, confused and worried industrial organizations are beginning to reduce production, to fire workers, and to seek isolated alternatives (increased exports) to avoid worse evils.

Wolfgang Sauer, the head of the largest business group in Latin America, said last week in Rio that the economy "is falling in a spin."

The automotive industry was the first to issue a warning that recession was knocking on the door of the Brazilian economy. The figures are self-explanatory: Domestic sales of vehicles in the first 4 months this year dropped by 36 percent (189,537 vehicles were sold during this period while 295,960 vehicles were sold during the same period in 1986). Production dropped by 20 percent, this percentage was not higher because exports increased by 55.3 percent. The number of units exported from January to April this year totals 89,657, while only 57,738 units were exported during the same period last year). As a result of this situation, the employment level dropped for the first time in the past 3 years (after the 1981-84 recession) because 2,000 jobs have been eliminated.

TERRORISM, DRUG TRAFFICKING 'ALLIANCE' ASSESSED

PY281741 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0950 GMT 23 May 87

[By Adalid Cabrera Lemuz]

[Text] Sao Paulo, 23 May (EFE) -- Brazilian police sources charged last night that the alliances between powerful drug trafficking gangs, extreme right-wing groups, and guerrillas in Latin America are trying to put the region under their economic and political control.

Federal police Antidrug Office Director Augusto Bellini last night told EFE that the arrest of Argentine Mario Mingolla, who was carrying 357 kg of Bolivian cocaine in Sao Paulo last week, has unveiled the connection between traffickers, extreme rightist groups, and extreme leftist guerrilla movements.

Bellini said that Mingolla confessed to police that he had worked as adviser to the repressive agencies of the Bolivian military regime headed by General Luis Garcia Meza (1980-81). He also said that he later served as a contact between guerrilla groups and drug trafficking gangs.

Mingolla, who was arrested in 1983 in Bolivia on charges of having connections with Italian terrorists Pier Luigi Pagliai and Stefano Delle Chiaie, said that during the Garcia Meza administration there were in Bolivia other neo-Nazi foreigners who worked in the areas of political repression and drug trafficking. He said that after the downfall of the regime, the same groups worked as bodyguards for drug traffickers, especially of the then "king of cocaine Roberto Suarez," whose headquarters were located in northeastern Bolivia.

The Brazilian federal police have asked the Bolivian, Argentine, and Italian Governments to supply information on Mingolla, who is being questioned by members of the "National Intelligence Service" (SNI), and to check for political links between drug traffickers and the Colombian guerrilla groups that operate along the Brazilian border, among them the M-19. According to information obtained by EFE, Mingolla told Brazilian police that the extreme leftist groups are having a hard time financing those movements, and this is why they have resorted to drug traffickers to obtain money in exchange for protection on the border area.

Bellini said that in the Colombian border area, the Brazilian federal police and the Army have increased surveillance in the wake of the increased activities of the trafficker-guerrilla alliance. He explained that the Brazilian Armed Forces have ordered the reinforcement of the border with Colombia, in line with a project called "Calha Norte," which is aimed at repressing drug traffickers, guerrillas, and smugglers who, despite ideological differences, have united behind common objectives. Bellini said that the medium-term objective of those groups is to put Latin American countries under their political and economic power.

The Brazilian official said that in the first 4 months of this year, the Brazilian federal police confiscated 620 kg of Bolivian and Colombian cocaine. This is more than the total quantity seized all last year, some 600 kg. Bellini noted that Brazil is becoming a center of operations for international drug trafficking gangs, because of its long borders (14,000 km) and its abundant air transportation services. He said in the next few years, the drug trafficking issue may change from a purely police issue into a object of political concern because of its links with extreme rightist and leftist groups. He called upon the international community to wage a joint, all-out struggle against drug trafficking.

GEN STANGE REJECTS U.S. REQUEST ON LETELIER CASE

PY290140 Paris AFP in Spanish 2351 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Santiago, 28 May (AFP) -- Government junta member Rodolfo Stange today said he opposes turning two former military intelligence officers over to the United States for having planned the murder of exiled socialist leader Orlando Letelier in Washington.

The United States had demanded that the government of President Augusto Pinochet turn General Manuel Contreras and Colonel Pedro Espinoza, both retired, over to U.S. courts to stand trial for the aforementioned crime, which also claimed the life of U.S. citizen Ronnie Moffit on 21 September 1976.

The U.S. request was made after Major Armando Fernandez Larios defected from the Chilean Army, admitted his involvement in Letelier's murder, turned himself in to U.S. authorities, and was sentenced to a jail term in Washington on 6 May.

Asked about the U.S. request for the two officers, Stange, who is the director of the Carabineros, said: Personally, I would say no.

Asked why he gave this response, Stange said: I would say no simply because the answer should be no. He noted, however, that he would have to study the evidence that led the United States to make this unusual request.

Gen Contreras was the chief of the National Intelligence Directorate (DINA) and Col Espinoza was the DINA chief of operations when former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier was blown to pieces by a bomb planted under his car in Washington.

Political sources in Santiago believe that Chile will reject the U.S. petition in a reply to be sent through diplomatic channels. They believe Chile will use arguments similar to those used in 1979 to reject extradition requests for the two officers.

PINOCHET REBUKES 'PRESSURES' FROM 'FOREIGN POWERS'

PY290237 Paris AFP in Spanish 0113 GMT 29 May 87

[Text] Calbuco, 28 May (AFP) -- Chilean President Augusto Pinochet today criticized the pressures being exerted on Chile by foreign powers. He said: We are prepared to die with our heads high instead of dropping on our knees to apologize for something we have not done.

Pinochet made this statement 24 hours after the United States formally requested the arrest and expulsion from Chile of Gen Manuel Contreras, retired, and Col Pedro Espinoza, retired for their involvement in the murder of exiled socialist leader Orlando Letelier in Washington.

According to reports from Washington, the United States has demanded that the Chilean Government turn the two former intelligence officers over to the U.S. courts to stand trial for this crime, which also claimed the life of U.S. citizen Ronnie Moffit on 21 September 1976.

At a meeting with residents of Calbuco, 1,150 km south of Santiago, Pinochet said: Some countries are attacking us. There are powers that have listened to the lies spread against us and are mercilessly attacking us as though their hands are clean. Pinochet added: These people seem to have forgotten history and thus they are attacking us. Let those gentlemen know that we know history and that we can disclose some information, many things that would affect them more than they would affect us.

In remarks made in Washington, State Department spokesman Phyllis Oakley said: We hope the Chilean Government will show with tangible actions the sincerity of its public commitment to cooperate in this matter, that is, in the Letelier case.

On the first day of a tour of the southern Chilean region, Pinochet said: We are on the threshold of important, decisive years, such as 1988 and 1989, and there are times when we must decide if we want to continue the policies we are following or if we want to stop and step back.

Pinochet said one must answer this question and must have a clear idea of the situation. He said: We must do the logical thing, that is, continue to work and to promote the progress of our fatherland. In accordance with the 1980 Constitution, in 1989 the Armed Forces will nominate a single candidate for the presidential term that will end in 1997. This nomination will have to be approved by the people in a plebiscite.

Yesterday, Pinochet rejected rumors that he was already openly engaged in a political campaign. He did not make it clear, however, if he is going to be a candidate for the 1989 plebiscite to continue as head of the government he has been leading since 1973, when he overthrew the late Socialist President Salvador Allende.

3 EXILED WOMEN DENIED ENTRY, ORDERED TO DEPART

PY281536 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0410 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Santiago, 27 May (EFE) -- The government today prohibited the entry of three women who arrived at Santiago airport from Buenos Aires to try to end their exile.

The women are journalist Gladys Diaz, Maria Isabel Matamala, and Lili Rivas, whose names appeared in a Santiago Appellate Court decision issued yesterday authorizing the return of 104 exiled women. However, shortly before their arrival, the Supreme Court -- Chile's highest court -- granted a government petition to temporarily prohibit the entry of the exiled women until the same court issues a decision on a note complaining about the judges who authorized the return of the exiled women.

At the Santiago airport, the women were stopped at the international police facilities, while Vicariate of Solidarity lawyer Roberto Garreton filed a petition with the appellate court on behalf of the women over the phone.

Shortly before midnight, official sources said that the government decided to send the women back to Buenos Aires tomorrow, on one of the first flights to leave Santiago.

Of the 104 women the court authorized to return, only folk singer Isabel Parra actually entered Chile in the morning, before the court decision was overruled. The government has not said what it will do about Parra's presence in Chile.

EXILED SOCIALIST LEADER RETURNS CLANDESTINELY

PY282149 Paris AFP in Spanish 1810 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Santiago, 28 May (AFP) -- Chilean Socialist leader Gustavo Ruz Zanartu has clandestinely returned to the country and today he appeared before the Santiago Appellate Court to request court protection, his lawyers reported.

Ruz Zanartu, who was secretary general of the Socialist Youth and a member of the Socialist Central Committee, was exiled from Chile in the wake of the 1973 military uprising that toppled the leftist government of Salvador Allende. He appeared before the court a few hours after the military government of President Augusto Pinochet ordered the expulsion of three exiled women who spent the night of 27 May at Santiago International Airport.

BISHOPS ISSUE 11-POINT DOCUMENT ON RECONCILIATION

PY230315 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] The bishops of Chile, in an 11-point document entitled "The Challenges of Reconciliation," have invited all Chileans to act on their beliefs and raise the level of dialogue. The document was disclosed to the media by Msgr Sergio Contreras Navia, secretary general of the Chilean Bishops Conference.

The document, signed by Msgr Contreras and Msgr Bernardino Pineras, president of the Bishops Conference, states that Pope John Paul II's visit had a deep impact on all Chileans, and we must follow his teachings and make them effective in our personal and social lives. The bishops say that the pope has invited us to a reconciliation with God. We now invite all Chileans to act on their beliefs because if their reconciliation with God is sincere, it should have fraternal consequences. Those who do not share our beliefs also feel the need for a patriotic and sensible understanding that will do away with the climate of hatred and aggressiveness that cause so much anguish among our people.

The document goes on to say that we must raise the level of our dialogue, and eliminate insults from our language. Reconciliation demands social justice. The poor cannot wait. We must all bear the current difficulties with sacrifice. Businessmen should help by offering job opportunities and fair salaries to their workers out of respect for human and Christian dignity.

The bishops state the economic policies must gradually include social aspects. If significant steps are not taken to solve great injustices it will be difficult to achieve a social reconciliation. The bishops note that there are some structures that jeopardize reconciliation. The hateful discrimination that prevents all Chileans from achieving well-being must be eliminated.

All Chileans, according to the bishops, must sincerely cooperate in finding a path of consensus and not one of violence. Without interfering in areas that do not concern us, we are ready to serve Chile with the Gospel, making dialogue possible so that all sectors may attain the high moral standard the present circumstances require.

The bishops' document ends by saying that we will continue to work with the teachings of the pope, whose word -- always inspired by God -- conveys the Gospel's message and its universal values of fraternity, justice, peace, and liberty.

DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES RESTRUCTURING

PY290315 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 May 87

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Democratic Alliance [AD] has announced an internal restructuring. From now on, the AD will have an executive committee, a secretary general, and five special committees.

Gabriel Valdes, in his capacity as president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], has been designated organizer of a campaign to promote free elections.

At a news conference, AD Secretary General Eduardo Cerda announced the agreements reached by the AD member parties. He said that the AD parties have decided to seek political agreements and a common strategy with all democratic sectors in order to counter the government electoral campaign with an opposition electoral campaign.

[Cerda] "Consequently, the AD member parties will hold negotiations and contacts with those forces that endorse the stated methods and objectives in order to set up a concerted action by democratic parties which would support and implement a national political campaign for free, clean elections. In this way, we will be able to resolve the national conflict and crisis.

"The AD member parties also will discuss with other democratic political forces a minimum government program that will become a true alternative to the dictatorship that has been ruling us."

Cerda announced that the system of rotating presidents has been discontinued as a result of the AD internal restructuring.

[Cerda] "(?While) implementing these important initiatives, which we know represent the desire of the large majority of the Chilean people who do not accept any type of extremism, the AD will continue to function as a standing organization in which all of its member parties will assume their functions and will serve on the committees assigned to them. The secretary general will coordinate these functions and the activities of committees as well. He will also announce the agreements reached by the AD Executive Committee."

The five new AD committees are the following: International Affairs, Enrique Silva Cimma; Programs, Rene Abeliuk; Finances, Ramon Silva Ulloa; Organization and Complaints, Federico Errazuriz; and Supervision, Armando Jaramillo.

CFP LEADER ATTACKED; NOT SERIOUSLY INJURED

PA231422 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Averroes Bucaram Zaccida, director of the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP] was attacked this afternoon. He was shot at by unidentified individuals while he was enroute from his home to Pascuales. Luis Almeida Moran, CFP secretary general, said fortunately the gunshot wound is not very serious. For the time being, Bucaram is out of danger. The CFP militant pointed out that this was an attempt to kill Averroes Bucaram:

[Begin recording] [Almeida] According to unofficial but quite reliable reports, Dr Averroes Bucaram was attacked by a large number of people when he was on his way from Guayaquil to Pascuales. This group included individuals on a motorcycle who fired at Bucaram as he was driving his vehicle. They shot from the driver's side. Although they have not yet been identified, it is believed these individuals who attacked the CFP leader [words indistinct]. Thank God, Dr Averroes Bucaram came out unharmed [ha salido sin novedad]. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] Is he unhurt?

[Almeida] There were two people wounded, two companeros who were accompanying Dr Bucaram. That is all I can tell listeners.

[Reporter] Where is Dr Averroes Bucaram?

[Almeida] He has already left Pascuales. He will go to his home in Guayaquil. What I can confirm is that this was an attempt on Dr Bucaram's life.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the perpetrators of this attack?

[Almeida] At this time, we do not know their exact identity, because they were traveling on a motorcycle and had their faces covered. They could not be clearly identified although there were several vehicles around the motorcycle. However, based on the incident, the vehicle [words indistinct] Dr Bucaram. [end recording]

COMMUNIST PARTY SUPPORTS MPD CANDIDATES PROPOSAL

PA270442 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] The Communist Party of Ecuador, which marked another anniversary a few days ago, has stated it will continue to participate in the historical unity process of leftist parties and movements.

The Communist Party stated that it firmly supports a proposal presented by the Democratic People's Movement [MPD] to establish a leftist slate to vie for the presidency and vice presidency of the Republic made up of Jaime Hurtado of the MPD and Enrique Ayala of the Socialist Party. The national list of deputies will be presented solely by the Broad Front of the left.

DEPUTY SAYS PRIME MINISTER ALVA TO RESIGN

PY271345 Lima Panamericana Television Network 0205 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Deputy Carlos Rivas Davila, from the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA] today said that Prime and Economy Minister Luis Alva Castro has allegedly decided to return to Congress and accept the proposal of his party bloc to be the next Chamber of the Deputies' president.

Meanwhile, Minister Alva Castro held a meeting this afternoon with the economic team to discuss the Investment and Employment Fund.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] It has been reported that Prime Minister Luis Alva Castro has resigned as economy and finance minister. Here is Deputy Carlos Rivas Davila, president of the Congressional Budget Committee. What can you tell us about this?

[Rivas] What we know in Congress is that Prime and Economy Minister Luis Alva Castro has decided to join the Chamber of Deputies and become candidate for its president.

[Reporter] When would Alva Castro join Congress?

[Rivas] I think he is about to make that decision. However, it all depends on the president of the Republic. He is the one who has to decide when Alva Castro will be able to leave the Economy and Finance Ministry, a ministry he has been conducting so wisely.

[Reporter] This means he has decided to come here as another deputy to participate in the debates.

[Rivas] Yes, that is his intention. That is what several congressmen and I discussed with him. Beside, he has our support for his candidacy for Chamber of Deputies' president.

[Reporter] This means that he will be the next Chamber of Deputies' president.

[Rivas] Yes, as long as no other decision is made, and especially if the president of the Republic helps him. We think he will be the Chamber of Deputies' president next term.

[Reporter] Obviously this means he has to resign as economy minister.

[Rivas] That is obvious. He has assumed his post as economy minister not only because the Peruvian people trust him, but because the president chose him, therefore, it will be the president who will have to allow him leave that post.

[Reporter] Do you know if he already tendered his resignation?

[Rivas] I do not know. Anyway, the prime minister, himself should confirm this. [end recording]

A few hours ago, Deputy Benjamin Madueno said the whole APRA bloc supports the candidacy of Alva Castro for next Chamber of Deputies' president.

FOREIGN MINISTER WAGNER INTERVIEWED ON TERRORISM

PY281624 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0105 GMT 28 May 87

[Interview with Foreign Minister Allan Wagner by unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, does your ministry believe that progress has been made in the struggle against terrorism?

[Wagner] I think a lot of progress has been made. However, I want to point out that the Shining Path's activities in Lima, the capital, are different from those in the emergency sub-zones No 5 and 7; that is, Ayacucho, Huancavelica, and Apurimac. I always point out that the terrorists' current activities in that region have decreased in the last few years. The situation in that area has been reversed. Six years ago, 85 percent of the area was under terrorists' control and today 85 percent is under the security forces' control. Fifteen percent of the area is still subject to terrorist actions, especially along the Cangallo and Apurimac Rivers, [name indistinct] Victor Fajardo, etc., where newspapers report that the Shining Path is active and clashes often with security forces.

[Reporter] There are rumors that in addition to the actions carried out by the Shining Path and the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement], there are others carried out by foreign subversive groups.

[Wagner] So far we have not been able to verify that.

[Reporter] Is this rumor dismissed then?

[Wagner] For the time being, at least, we have not captured any foreigners among the terrorists. But we understand that it has been proven that Peruvian terrorists are cooperating with the M-19. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Have you thought about taking any measures regarding the charges that the Shining Path is allegedly receiving financial aid from abroad?

[Wagner] The intelligence service, which is in charge of these things, still have no evidence that the Shining Path is receiving financial or any other type of aid. I have received this information from the National Defense Council.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Wagner] Our embassies are always alert for anything of interest regarding possible foreign aid to Peruvian subversive groups.

JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN ARRESTED FOR SELLING TO USSR

PY281601 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Two high-level executives of an important Japanese firm that manufactures machinery and tools have been arrested on charges of illegally exporting high-technology equipment to the Soviet Union. The men are (Riusu Ayachi), director of Toshiba Machine, and (Iraoki Tanimura), deputy director of the same firm. They have been accused of exporting high technology equipment and tools for making propellers that make submarines run silently.

TOURIST VISAS NOT REQUIRED AFTER 12 JUNE

PY251330 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] As of June, visas will no longer be required for tourists from any part of the world who wish to visit Peru. Industry, Tourism, Commerce and Integration Minister Manuel Romero Caro today announced this measure is part of an upcoming campaign called: Peru opens its doors to the world.

This campaign will begin on 12 June when Peru resumes direct Aero Peru flights to the United States.

ARMY PATROLS KILL 11 'SUBVERSIVES' IN AYACUCHO

PY271603 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Army patrols killed 11 subversives in two armed confrontations that took place on 21 and 23 May, in two regions of La Mar Province, Ayacucho Department. The Armed Forces Joint Command has released the following official communique:

Official communique No 21. The Armed Forces Joint Command wants to inform the people in general of the following events:

1. On 21 May 1987, at 0530, an Army patrol engaged approximately 30 subversives in an armed confrontation near Oronjoy, La Mar Province, Ayacucho Department. One subversive was killed in that action, but he has not yet been identified.

2. On 23 May 1987, at 0730, an Army patrol engaged subversive criminals in an armed confrontation in the region of Gajaracocha, La Mar Province, Ayacucho Department. As a result of this action, 10 unidentified subversive criminals were killed. Several weapons were recovered and a large amount of subversive propaganda was seized.

Lima, 26 May 1987.

[Signed] Public Relations Office of the Armed Forces Joint Command.

BRIEFS

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO -- Lima, 19 May (AFP) -- Peru and Mexico today signed here a \$75-million agreement to finance the purchase of capital goods, equipment, medicines, and other products these two countries may require from the other. The agreement was signed by Peruvian Prime Minister Luis Alva Castro and Mexican Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Gustavo Petricioli during a ceremony held at Government Palace in the presence of President Alan Garcia. The Mexcian Banco de Comercio Exterior bank will open a \$50-million credit line for Peru while the Peruvian Financial Development Corporation (COFIDE) will open a \$25-million credit line for Mexico. COFIDE President Jose Salaverry has announced that as part of this agreement the export of Peruvian fishing boats to Mexico worth \$20 million and the import of 30,000 tons of steel bars from Mexico is being negotiated. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0207 GMT 20 May 87 PY]

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR SUMMIT 27 MAY

PY271412 Paris AFP in Spanish 1349 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Montevideo, 27 May (AFP) -- Brazilian President Jose Sarney arrived this morning in Uruguay for a 7-hour visit during which he will evaluate with his Uruguayan and Argentine colleagues the problem of the region's foreign debt and the progress of the integration process among the 3 countries.

Sarney was met at Carrasco Airport by Presidents Julio Sanguinetti and Raul Alfonsin.

During his short visit to Montevideo, Sarney will meet with his colleagues, lunch with them, and then the three presidents will hold a joint news conference.

Sarney will see Alfonsin off at Carrasco Airport. He will meet again with Sanguinetti at the airport and then return to Brazil at 2000 GMT.

SANGUINETTI SENDS LETTER TO VENICE SUMMIT

PY271943 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0841 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Montevideo, 27 May (EFE) -- Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias, temporary secretary of the Cartagena Consensus, today told EFE that Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti has sent a letter to the summit meeting of chiefs of state in Venice "again demanding a political treatment for the foreign debt problem."

Without revealing the exact contents of the letter, Iglesias said, in the name of the Cartagena Consensus, that the "interest rate increase and the imminent reduction of investment capital in Latin America is causing a negative impact on the region."

The Uruguayan foreign minister said that only the recipients of the letter can reveal its contents. The letter explains to the industrialized countries "with wisdom and calmness, the efforts made so far for economic adjustment and the meaning of the massive capital flight."

Italian Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani has already received the letter and he will present it to the rest of the industrialized countries. The letter "explains that it is very difficult for Latin America to make investments and pay its debt simultaneously," Iglesias said.

The Uruguayan foreign minister said that Sanguinetti's message in the name of the countries of the Cartagena Consensus "calls for responsibility on the part of creditors and asks them to look into the future, taking into consideration the new circumstances."

The Cartagena Consensus is comprised of 11 [number as received] countries responsible for 90 percent of the \$400 billion Latin American foreign debt. These countries are: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and Uruguay.

Iglesias said the current situation "forces us to innovate solutions centered on the capacity of growth and payment of the debtor countries and not only on their capacity to honor their commitments."

Iglesias confirmed to EFE that the Uruguayan Government has received a reply from Fanfani expressing his concern over the subject. Fanfani promised to "discuss this issue during the summit in Venice mentioning all the arguments detailed in the letter."

The Italian prime minister today left for Canada and the United States, where he will convey the petition of the 11 Latin American countries to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in Ottawa, and President Ronald Reagan in Washington.

The summit of the seven chiefs of state of the governments of Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States, the FRG, and Canada will take place from 8 to 10 June. Iglesias said now he is expecting a reply "in keeping with the seriousness of the arguments we presented to the creditor countries, which are all friendly countries, because the important thing is to work together for a policy to improve the international scene." The Uruguayan foreign minister said that after this summit, we expect the dialogue will be more effective.

Last year, Sanguinetti, in the name of the Cartagena Consensus, sent a letter to the Bonn summit. The governments of the industrialized countries replied that they were taking the crisis into consideration and they believed the growth of the debtor countries would provide relief to the Latin American countries.

However, the growth of the developed countries was not as great as expected, and it is foreseen that their growth rate this year will not reach 2.5 percent, Uruguayan Economy Minister Ricardo Zerbino explained in Montevideo.

TRANSPORT MINISTER TO OFFER SEA ACCESS TO BOLIVIA

PY202047 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1427 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Montevideo, 20 May (TELAM) -- Uruguayan Transportation and Public Works Minister Jorge Sanguinetti has announced here that Bolivia might use the Uruguayan ports of Nueva Palmira and Fray Bentos, both of them on the Uruguayan River, as an access to the sea.

Nueva Palmira is 273 km northwest of Montevideo, while Fray Bentos is 311 km from the capital. Both ports border Argentina.

In the next few days the minister will travel to La Paz to study this possibility with Bolivian authorities. The minister added that the sale of services within the River Plate basin is a key target of the Uruguayan Government.

Sanguinetti said the port of Fray Bentos and nearby areas will be dredged. It is expected that some 100,000 cubic meters of silt will be dredged from the port.

JOINT 'AERONAUTICS AGREEMENT' SIGNED WITH USSR

PY251846 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0223 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Montevideo, 24 May (EFE) -- It was reported today that the Soviet Union and Uruguay have drafted the first aeronautics agreement in the history of the two countries. The agreement will permit the Soviet airline Aeroflot and Uruguay's Pluna to establish commercial flights between the two countries.

The document, which will be ratified by the two governments, was signed by Vladimir Pismennyl, head of a USSR delegation that arrived in Montevideo on 23 May, and the Uruguayan Civil Aeronautics Directorate officials.

Pismennyl told the Uruguayan press that "although certain steps still have to be taken before the project actually goes into operation, our two governments have already agreed to have Aeroflot flights to Montevideo."

The project establishes that both countries will have equal rights.

The Soviet company has offices in Montevideo but, for the time being, Aeroflot passengers will have to make connections in Argentina.

The "Aeroflot" flights from Montevideo to Moscow will make stops in Brazil and Paris.

GOVERNMENT SETS GOAL OF 4-PERCENT GDP GROWTH

PY290257 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 20 May 87 p 8

[Excerpts] Uruguayan Central Bank (BCU) President Ricardo Pascale yesterday gave a lecture at the National Academy of Economics on recent monetary developments and the economic policy for 1987. Pascale said the foreign exchange policy this year will allow foreign currencies to float, provided the BCU does not lose international reserves.

Pascale said in order to attain 4-percent growth of the GDP in 1987 the fiscal deficit has been set at 4.2 percent of the GDP (it reached 5 percent in 1986). Two percent of this deficit will be financed with additional foreign loans and the balance with domestic resources.

Pascale said the BCU wants to maintain a balanced policy toward international reserves in order to close the present fiscal year at a level similar to that of 31 December 1986. [passage omitted] He added that a fundamental part of the economic strategy is to reduce the fiscal deficit and that of autonomous corporations [deficit parafiscal]. In 1986, Uruguay had a 5-percent deficit in these areas. He said in 1986 there was a balance-of-payments surplus of \$256 million that was added to the BCU international reserves. The current account, after many years in the red, closed the year with a surplus of \$91 million.

Pascale said the "net errors and omissions" account, which registers mainly the entry and exit of capital, played an important part in the evolution of the balance of payments.

In 1986, this account closed with a positive balance of \$172 million. This amount added to the 1985 surplus of \$227 million totals almost \$400 million in positive capital investments. From 1981 to 1984 this account registered a negative balance of \$1.765 billion in capital outflow.

BUSINESS, LABOR GROUPS PRESENT PROPOSALS

PA271455 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2228 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Caracas, 25 May (DPA) -- What the Venezuelan press has described as a "national dialogue," to bring about needed economic reactivation to lift the country out of the economic crisis it has been enduring for the past 3 years, began in Caracas today.

The beginning of the meeting was marked at noon today at Miraflores Palace, government headquarters, with the arrival of representatives of FEDECAMARAS [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] (the organization that gathers members of the country's private sector) and the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers, the main labor organization. The two organizations handed work papers to President Jaime Lusinchi "as their contribution to achieve economic reactivation and upgrade the standard of living of Venezuelans."

The documents state that "there is an excess supply of goods resulting from a shortage of demand that is reflected in the labor market by a reduced demand of labor; this in turn generates an excess labor force that further reduces actual demand, lowers salary levels, and increases unemployment and underemployment."

The immediate actions proposed in the documents presented by business and labor leaders focus basically on rationalizing and accelerating the allocation of and free access to dollars at the official exchange rate and optimizing the yield of the dollar in industries with high dynamic effects [alto efecto dinamico] and those involved with export goods. They also aim to contribute to the solution of productivity, quality, and efficiency problems by concentrating on improvements in the areas of costs, prices, and competitiveness by ensuring a rational flow of funds and upgrading public services.

The two groups also ask for improvements in the financial structures of industrial enterprises, the progressive and prompt incorporation of an increasing number of industrial enterprises in the use of new mechanisms and instruments to secure medium- and long-term financing, and the effective incorporation of banks and other financial middlemen into the process of development by decreasing the use of fiscal resources and upgrading credit conditions for industry.

The two groups propose an "acceleration" of the process to privatize public goods not related to basic industries and the implementation of projects involving innovations, learning, and the mastering of technology.

Among other recommendations made by workers and businessmen to the national government are: economic growth coupled with the highest level of employment, amortization of the foreign debt with compensatory formulas that will allow new financing, export incentives, selective control of imports through tariffs, an expansive fiscal policy, a financial policy providing incentives to production, and better access to labor capital. President Lusinchi will study these proposals and issue a reply in no more than 90 days.

SOVIET ENVOY PRAISES GROUP OF SIX'S ACTIVITIES

PA281605 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 May 87

[Report by Olga Borovio]

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Rostislav Sergeyev said today the Group of Six's activities in favor of disarmament have made the Soviet Government realize a future free of nuclear weapons is not a dream.

In presenting a book entitled "Initiatives of the Group of Six and the USSR's Position," Sergeyev stressed that each person in each country should try to do something to prevent a nuclear catastrophe.

Sergeyev said he feels it is quite possible that this time the Soviet-U.S. negotiations to free Europe from medium-range missiles will be successful.

Regarding Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda's visit to the USSR, Sergeyev said Moscow was afforded the opportunity to realize Mexico has a truly independent foreign policy, not subject to the interests of other countries.

GROUP LEAVES ITALIAN EMBASSY, REMAINS IN DANISH

PA280447 Mexico City XHTV in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 May 87

[Report by Juan Jose Prado]

[Text] Today at midday, two embassies were peacefully taken over in Mexico City by the Emiliano Zapata Eastern Democratic Front peasant group.

At this time, the Danish Embassy in Polanco is still occupied. The Italian Embassy at Las Lomas in Chapultepec was only taken over for 3 hours. There were no violent incidents. The peasants are demanding the clearing up of the murder of nine comrades [companeros], which took place at the Veracruz mountain of (Guayacocopla), as well as the freeing of leaders of their organization, under arrest in several jails throughout the country.

All the diplomatic personnel were present at the Danish Embassy at the time of the takeover, including Ambassador Jorgen Frost. At this time, all is quiet at the Danish Embassy. There is only discreet police surveillance. The peasants have already announced they will not leave the Danish Embassy until their demands are met.

BRIEFS

AEROMEXICO DIRECTOR GENERAL NAMED -- Mexico City, 8 May (NOTIMEX) -- Engineer Rogelio Gasca Neri was named Aeromexico's new director general today in accordance with instructions given by President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado. Aeromexico is one of the two most important commercial airlines in Mexico. Mr Gasca Neri replaces Fernando de Garay y Arenas. [Excerpt] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1400 GMT 8 May 87 FL]

NICARAGUA'S ARDE ASKS GEN NORIEGA FOR AID

PA281712 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 May 87 pp A1, C4

[Letter from the Nicaraguan ARDE to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Commander in Chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces; dated 7 May 1987]

[Text] 7 May 1987

Gen Manuel A. Noriega, Panamanian Defense Forces

Through this note, we express cordial greetings from the combatants of the Southern Front, and at the same time, state to you the following:

General, as armed peasants who believe in freedom, we address you as the representative and highest-ranking military man of the armed branch of the Panamanian people to ask you for aid. We are not asking for monetary aid, but for humanitarian aid consisting of medicine which we urgently need in the battlefronts because the constant offensives of the EPS and the indiscriminate bombings by the Sandinist Air Force have caused wounded among the civilian peasant population.

Unfortunately, the peasants are dying because of the lack of medicine in the mountains of the Southern Front. There are many cases of innocent people maimed by the Sandinist bombs and mines, and of combatants sick with pneumonia or malnutrition — illnesses that are fatal because of the unfortunate condition in which the guerrillas live.

As a result of our critical military situation, we have many limitations and much rationing. We are asking for help with medicines.

We want the approval [beneplacito] of the highest-ranking Panamanian military officer and his staff because we do not want our attitude to be interpreted as meddling with the peace and security of the Panamanian people.

We are sending this message with a Panamanian who already knows the sorrow and suffering of our people in the war unleashed by the communists against their own nation. On previous occasions, your people have expressed support for us and today we want them to express it more than ever because the troops of the Southern Front are facing the strongest offensive in their history.

More than 12 EPS battalions are carrying out an offensive of attrition against our forces, taking advantage of the situation we are experiencing because of our logistical limitations. Some 3,000 combatants are fighting against troops who are superior in number and armaments. There are many wounded and no medicines to treat them.

As the highest Panamanian military officer, and, above all, a peace-loving man, we beg you, Gen Noriega, to permit that medicine such as Glucatime, antibiotics, analgesics, etc., to be collected for us to save the lives of many civilians and combatants who are the victims of heavy confrontations.

This aid we are asking from the Panamanian people would help our people enormously. Half our troops are badly equipped, sleeping without hammocks, and do not have boots. Therefore, any help from you would be well-received, no matter how small.

We bid you farewell, thanking you in advance for your cooperation and support for the combatants of ARDE-Southern Front.

ARDE

Commander Leonel, military chief of ARDE-Southern Front and regional commander of the Wenceslao Avilez Unit.

PRD, PALA ISSUE 3-POINT JOINT COMMUNIQUE

PA272307 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 26 May 87 p 19

[Joint communique issued by the Labor Party and the Democratic Revolutionary Party in Panama City on 25 May]

[Text] Labor Party (PALA)

Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD)

Joint Communique

This morning, the National Executive Councils of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) and the Labor Party (PALA) met to engage in a broad exchange of views on the various problems facing the country and to propose the solutions expected and demanded by the people; at the same time, we reaffirmed existing ties between the two parties as members of a political alliance.

Among other things, we agreed to:

1. Promote a political debate on the country's economic situation, the foreign debt, and the problems involving the Social Security Fund.
2. Demand that talks and political debates be resumed within the government alliance to strengthen UNADE [National Democratic Union].
3. The participation of the two parties in the organization of ceremonies to mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

Issued in Panama City on 25 May 87 1987

[Signed] For the Labor Party (PALA): Juan A. Medrano, President, and Ramon Sieiro Mungas, Secretary General

For the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD): Alfredo Macharaviaya, acting president, and Carlos Ozores, secretary general.

DELVALLE RETURNS FROM TOUR OF ISRAEL, ITALY

PA281823 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 May 87 p 1

[Article by Mario Martinez Puente]

[Text] Upon his return to Panama following his trip to Israel, the Republic of Malta, and the Vatican, Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle said that next year Panama will receive between 70 and 100 million [currency not specified] from an export loan granted by a private group of Italian investors.

At a news conference held at the Panamanian Air Force terminal, President Delvalle said one of the reasons he visited Israel was to express his gratitude for Israeli support of Panama's struggle to recover the canal.

Delvalle said Panama succeeded in ratifying the cultural and technological cooperation agreements signed with Israel in 1963 and 1970 respectively, and in expanding the latter to give more emphasis to agriculture.

Delvalle added that Israel offered technical assistance to improve irrigation systems and Panama requested that Israel send a delegation of specialists to analyze erosion in the so-called "Sarigua Desert" in Herrera Province.

In answer to questions about reports transmitted by international news agencies regarding the purchase of weapons from Israel, Delvalle explained the reports distorted the exact meaning of his words.

Delvalle said that during a news conference in Israel, a reporter asked him the following question: "Assuming that within the framework of the Contadora process, Panama did not succeed in establishing peace in Central America and the arms race in Central America continues, will Panama be forced to purchase weapons to defend the canal in the year 2000?"

Delvalle said: My answer to that question was that if the conditions stated by the reporter exist in the year 2000, we would have to make that decision. This is because we would be responsible for the defense of the canal. We would make the decision at that time." [quotation marks as published]

PAPER REPORTS PROMOTIONS IN DEFENSE FORCES

PA281811 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 May 87 pp 1, 43

[Text] According to reports obtained by CRITICA last night, Panama's Defense Forces presented approximately 1,610 promotions this week.

These promotions represent the pyramid of structural power within Panama's Armed Forces, as sublieutenants, first sergeants, second sergeants, first and second corporals, privates, policemen, and detectives were promoted.

The promotions resulted from an evaluation that took into account behavior, discipline, professional courses, and the Defense Forces' future plans.

EL SALVADORFMLN-FDR PROPOSAL FOR SOLUTION TO CONFLICT

PA281727 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 May 87

[FMLN-FDR "18 point proposal for a political solution to the conflict" dated 26 May, El Salvador, read by Commander Joaquin Villalobos]

[Text] The FDR-FMLN have stated that the best way to humanize the war is to end it through dialogue and a negotiated political solution.

Duarte's government and the Armed Forces have conducted the war in a brutal and irrational manner, thus affecting the lives, property, freedom, and economy of all Salvadorans. Now, the Christian Democratic government, responsible for the greatest genocide in the country's history and which wants everybody to forget the massacres, bombings, mass displacements, murders, destruction of peasants' houses, and desolation of entire towns, believes it can unload the problem of humanizing the war of sabotage and the use of people's weapons through propaganda.

Our country has witnessed the death of over 60,000 civilians, and approximately 1 million people have been forcibly displaced from a quarter of the country. At present, over 3,000 square km are used for target practice by the Air Force and artillery units, and if the situation requires, any city or rural area can be the object of indiscriminate fire. The air war has already reached the outskirts of San Salvador, and the western part of the country is beginning to be depopulated. At least 4 tons of bombs and artillery rockets are dropped in some part of the country every day, killing people, destroying property, and, above all, maintaining terror among the population, which must continue living in poor and crowded conditions in refugee areas of the country and abroad.

Over 5 million pounds of bombs have been dropped in areas where poor peasants live or used to live. The U.S. advisers and general staff speak of [word indistinct] precision in their air and artillery attacks. However, we ask ourselves: would army chiefs and officers have their families live in the General Arce neighborhood if our forces were to decide to attack using heavy artillery and explosives against the military chiefs who inhabit those areas?

The main dehumanizing practices and actions that shock the people the most are:

1. Peasant massacres such as the ones in El Mozote, Morazan, with over 1,000 residents killed; in Sumpul, Chalatenango Department, with over 600 residents killed; in El Calabozo, San Vicente Department, with over 300 residents killed; Copapayo, in Cuscatlan Department, with over 70 residents killed; Las Hojas, Sonsonate Department, with over 70 residents killed; Junquillo, Morazan Department, with over 80 residents killed; and so on. If we continued we would have a long list of massacres.

2. Mass and selective persecution and harassment of members of peoples' organizations, labor and church leaders, and even army officers in San Salvador and most important cities carried out by the country's security forces members, who act as members of death squads. None of these crimes have been explained or judged.

3. The bombings, machinegun attacks from the air, and use of heavy artillery that cause terror and casualties among civilians.
4. Destruction of hundreds of thousands of peasant houses, schools, clinics, and churches and the partial or total destruction of towns in over five departments. To this we must add the destruction of thousands of hectares of corn, beans, sorghum fields, and woods that belonged to poor peasants.
5. The suspension of basic health and education services and the restriction of supplies in very densely populated areas of the country.
6. Conscription of thousands of youths, who are forced to desert and leave the country to avoid becoming combat casualties for a cause they do not share.
7. The adoption of economic measures that force the people to pay for a war to which they object. All practices and actions are the explanation for the deaths of 60,000 civilians, the millions of misplaced people, depopulation of a large area of the country, and the development of the new and growing progress of the people's struggle that is heading toward a just, legitimate, and appropriate radicalization against an unbearable situation.

All those genocidal actions have been justified by the war. They have been and are being implemented with premeditation and with the knowledge and approval of the government of engineer Duarte as part of the counterinsurgency plan.

10. [Number as heard] There is mass extermination of the population without regard for children, women, and old people, just because they are family of the guerrillas or because they cooperate with the guerrillas. Crops are destroyed and supplies to the people are cut back so the guerrillas will not have food. Homes, entire towns, schools, churches, and health centers are destroyed so the guerrillas cannot use them. Any place in the country is bombed and shelled with the excuse that this keeps the rebels from concentrating in those areas. Labor leaders and members of the people's organizations are captured and made to disappear after accusing them of being guerrillas.

The people are punished with economic packages to pay for a war that goes against their interests. Summarizing, this is an unjustified, irrational, direct action against the people that should end. Humanizing the war means ending all that.

Considering that our people have been punished with serious natural and social disasters such as earthquakes, droughts, and the deportation of thousands of countrymen from the United States, which aggravates the people's suffering; and considering that the government insists on its warmongering policy despite the fact that it is heading toward huge economic, political, and military vacuums, which in a short time will make it impossible to continue in power, our front wishes to provide more proof of its desire for peace and a search for a political solution to the conflict. This is despite the fact that, today more than ever, we are sure of winning the war.

Based on all the aforementioned, we have drafted a very important proposal to humanize and reduce the economic, social, and political impact of the war. This proposal we present to the government and the Armed Forces with the possibility of heading toward a rational solution to the conflict.

With this in mind, our fronts, through the mediator, Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, have sent to the government of the Republic and to the Armed Forces a proposal from the FDR-FMLN alliance for immediate negotiations to find a political solution to the conflict. This document contains the 18 points of our proposal for an agreement to the humanization and reduction of the economic, social, and political impacts of the war. It also contains a statement and proposal to reopen the dialogue toward an overall political solution.

Because this document is of great interest to all peoples and the international community, the FDR's Executive Council and the FMLN General Command release it, as follows:

Proposal for a Momentous Agreement for the Humanization and Reduction of the Economic, Social, and Political Impact of the War.

This proposal consists of holding immediate negotiations involving the following steps:

1. Suspension of the aerial war, bombings, the use of missiles, and strafing by aircraft, bearing in mind that in a small and densely populated territory like ours the air war seriously affects the civilian population and is used to force depopulation and prevent population.
2. For the foregoing reasons, suspension of the use of long-range artillery pieces, 81-mm and 120-mm mortars, 105-mm and 155-mm [cannons], etc., because their fire is indiscriminate in practice and causes serious physical and psychological damage to the civilian population.
3. Suspension of the use of all types of antipersonnel mines and booby traps by both sides.
4. Suspension of economic sabotage, which includes transportation bans, power outages, and sabotaging of export crops, coffee mills, and other economic installations of the ruling class and the government, by the FMLN.
5. End the destruction of homes, peasant towns, the social infrastructure, crops, and domestic animals of the inhabitants in troubled areas. Likewise, the efforts of the inhabitants to reconstruct their homes and relocate the economic, social, and infrastructure in war-torn areas must not be hindered or blocked in any way. [sentence as heard]
6. Full respect for the people's right to live in freely-selected places; freedom to repopulate [areas]; and suspension of the evictions and all other practices that prevent repopulation and give rise to the phenomenon of the displaced persons, something which has affected one-fifth of the Salvadoran population.
7. Free movement of the people with their supplies, and free development of commerce in the troubled areas. Elimination of all impediments and controls over these activities.
8. Noninterference, through military measures, in the performance of the civilian functions of mayors, justices of the peace and other officials of the state's political apparatus.

9. Freedom for all leaders and members of the popular and labor movement who are in jail. An end to the persecution, capture, kidnapping, disappearance, and killing of persons who pose economic, social, and political demands. In regard to members of both sides, only the capture of military elements and not elements engaged in political activities is permissible.
10. An end to the persecution and capture of civilian inhabitants of the troubled areas.
11. Respect for the lives of prisoners, elimination of all types of physical and psychological tortures, and an end to the systematic practice of disappearances.
12. Suspension of the execution of spies and members of the intelligence networks of either side.
13. Respect for the free performance of functions, freedom of movement, physical safety, and freedom of medical and paramedical personnel of both sides as well as the religious personnel accompanying them; and of the clinics, hospital facilities, medicine and all types of health supplies of both sides.
14. Respect for the wounded fighters of both sides. They will be allowed to move about and receive medical attention anywhere in our national territory and will not be subject to capture, interrogation or pressure of any type.
15. [Adoption of] measures to effectively enforce the agreement to eliminate [forceful] disappearances and to respect the relatives of fighters, militant cadres, and leaders of the FMLN and FDR as well as the relatives of soldiers and members of the Armed Forces and of government officials.
16. Suspension, by both sides, of all forms of forceful recruitment. The induction of members into both armies is to be made only on a voluntary basis as befits the internal nature of the conflict. This nature has been recognized by even the Supreme Court of Justice when it issued a ruling declaring the war tax unconstitutional.
17. Abolition of indirect taxes affecting the people's consumption, which were established during the last 2 years, invoking reasons of war. This would be to ease the impact of the conflict on the people's economy. For the same reason electric power rationing must be abolished, and the already announced increase in the rates of this service must be suspended.
18. An end to the psychological war operations that sow terror, and an end to all deceit and misinformation of the population.

The foregoing 18 points make up an overall proposal to humanize the war and ease its economic, political, and social impact through a truly serious and intensive effort.

Aware that this proposal demands many concessions be made, our fronts suggest the agreements include the 18 points as a whole. In order for these negotiations to achieve the greatest substance and depth, and enable us to advance in the great national effort to recover our sovereignty, we propose that the two Salvadoran parties include in the negotiations a discussion about measures to solve the problem of the presence of U.S. advisers; that those advisers should withdraw from the country. This becomes necessary because the advisers are direct promoters of the bombing, depopulation, and scorched earth tactics that have meant the loss of thousands of lives and greater impoverishment for the people.

The general agreements reached to date have been subject to violations and delays on the part of the government and the Armed Forces. The agreements reached during the two meetings in Panama, regarding the evacuation of the war disabled, have been hindered and postponed, and some of the disabled men have been arrested in San Salvador. Likewise, the Christmas truces, the agreement to refrain from harming family members, and putting an end to the disappearances, have been violated by the government and the Armed Forces. Therefore, to achieve an agreement, it is essential that the 18 points proposed by our fronts be considered, and the criteria and mechanisms for the effective compliance and verification of said agreements be established.

For this immediate negotiation, our front suggests the talks must be held directly between delegates of the FDR-FMLN on one side, and delegates of the top Armed Forces command and the government from the other. These delegates should have full powers. The participation of plenipotentiary delegates of the Armed Forces is Absolutely essential. The negotiations cannot be held if only Duarte government delegates attend. We propose that the immediate negotiations begin on 15 June. The place and established procedures must be agreed upon at a meeting with mediator Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas to be held during the 2d week of June in Chalatenango or Morazan. This meeting will be held between the mediator and our delegates. The mediator will arrive at the meeting with the response and proposals of the other party.

In proposing this date, we have taken into consideration the seriousness and importance of the agreements that must be reached. This will demand many meetings. Our fronts are ready and willing to reach an important agreement based on the above-mentioned points.

The FDR-FMLN are aware of the need and usefulness of reaching an agreement to humanize the armed conflict and reduce the negative effects this war has on the people. However, our fronts cannot forget that our main goal is to end the war and achieve peace with justice and dignity for our people. Therefore, to humanize the conflict, and for this attempt to be successful, it becomes necessary to link the advances in this field with a process of dialogue and negotiation to achieve a global political solution that will ensure a just and lasting peace. In view of this, we make the following suggestions and proposals:

1. At this stage of the problem, the dialogue-negotiation for a global solution cannot be solely limited to the participation of the FDR-FMLN on one side, and the government and Armed Forces on the other. The deepening of the national crisis proves to us the degree of the Salvadoran state's economic and military dependence on the government in Washington. This calls for an effort on the part of all patriotic sectors in the search for and drafting of a national solution among Salvadorans. The participation of all social and political sectors of the country in a broad and sincere dialogue is essential to find and implement a solution to the crisis, thus defeating the resistance of the U.S. Government which, following its regional and global policy, is bent on escalating the war in El Salvador and rejecting just and realistic negotiation to end the conflict.

2. We will be able to overcome these obstacles only if all important national forces participate in the negotiations. We will then be able to retake, into our own hands, the future of our homeland and achieve a just peace. The direct dialogue between the government and our fronts must be based on the development of a broad national dialogue as agreed by the two parties during the La Palma meeting. All sectors must be allowed to express their opinion and contribute in the shaping of patriotic determination and a stepping stone toward national sovereignty.

3. In July 1985, our fronts contributed to the national dialogue with a social offer for a national solution that was directed to all sectors. To summarize our July 1985 offer, we can say that the 6-point offer included: a solution among Salvadorans, government pluralism and broadness, a cease-fire following improvements in the government, the beginning of a just economic regime, democracy and rescue of human rights, and a foreign policy of peace.

For this reason, we propose that during the meeting, in studying the above-mentioned 18 points, we also include the subject of organization and promotion of a national dialogue among all the political and social sectors of the country and the organization and planning of a continuous direct dialogue aimed at the global solution of the conflict between the parties.

[Signed] FDR Executive Committee

FMLN General Command

El Salvador, 26 May 1987

Duarte on Proposal Rejection

PA290435 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0314 GMT 29 May 87

[Text] We will now contact journalist Rene Hurtado, who will report on President Duarte's rejection of the guerrilla proposal, as reported during this newscast, following the initial reports this morning. Here is Rene Hurtado, who has the report. Go ahead, Rene.

[Hurtado] Thank you. Good evening YSKL listeners. As we reported a few days ago, the third dialogue meeting is underway. The FMLN has voiced its position through Commander Joaquin Villalobos, as recently reported by Radio Venceremos. In the same manner, President Duarte has expressed his position, although he had previously said there would not be any third dialogue, but that he would propose it anyway. [sentence as heard] So far, the date for this dialogue is also unknown. This FMLN proposal includes 18 points, which would have to be considered in the third dialogue. Upon learning of this proposal, and after he inaugurated a drinking water works in Chalatenango this morning, President Duarte referred somewhat vaguely to the FMLN position on this third dialogue and the 18 points of the proposal. Duarte had this to say about the FMLN's proposal and the 18 points.

[Begin Duarte recording] The people do not want pacts that let the war continue. The people do not want to speak about humanization while some are seeking to continue to kill. The Salvadoran people and I, as president, want the war, violence, destruction, and social disobedience to come to an end.

We want all those who have bone to the mountains to join the democratic process. Then we will be able to talk about the 18 points proposed and even about 20 more. But let them define their position by saying that violence is not the instrument to take power, that it has never been, that the country rejects authoritarian governments, that the country rejects totalitarianism, that the people want freedom and democracy, and that the only possible way to achieve success is to have all sectors unite to attain that peace and this progress in a climate of respect and democracy. This is the invitation. [applause]

This is my response from Chalatenango to the nation and the world. I hereby tell the gentlemen up in arms that we will wait for them with open arms when they admit violence is not the proper method to achieving power, when they say that they want to join the democratic process. Then, the president of the Republic, the government of the Republic, and the country's Armed Forces will be with the people, ready to receive them with open arms, as Salvadoran brothers, so that by forsaking arms, they can join democracy and all of us can work together for the progress of the country.

This is a very important moment. This moment in the homeland implies not only the events in the capital, but in all the country. For this reason, I made up my mind, thanks to the Legislative Assembly, to present a message of the third anniversary not here or in the capital, but in Sensuntepeque, because Sensuntepeque, Chalatenango, Metapan, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, and La Union also are in El Salvador. [applause]

This is why I wanted to choose a place in each department to meet with the people to inaugurate -- as I do here in Chalatenango -- not only this work to supply water for the city, but the many works completed in all the municipalities, the highways and bridges that have been built, the works that have been completed in 18 municipalities during this year, as well as the works that have been completed in the "United to Rebuild" plan. [end recording]

[Hurtado] In this manner, the issue of a dialogue between the FMLN and the government of the Republic has been brought up. The 18-point proposal of the FMLN was delivered to Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, and later was delivered to the president of the Republic and announced by Commander Joaquin Villalobos over Radio Venceremos, as YSKL reported. After the conclusion of this ceremony held at Chalatenango, President Duarte expanded his statements on the 18 points presented by the FMLN in this document that was delivered to him this week.

[2-minute Duarte recording indistinct]

[Hurtado] In this manner, and according to the political experts, it is believed that through the mediation of Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, the third dialogue will be held after President Duarte's message [scheduled for 1 June], taking into consideration the 18 points presented by the FMLN. Likewise, the government's stand that the guerrillas should put an end to destruction and join the process [of democracy], as President Jose Napoleon Duarte said. [sentence as heard].

YSLK listeners, this concludes our complete reportage on an important subject such as the third round of dialogue that might be held this year, although President Duarte said this third round of dialogue could not be held this year.

FMLN's Villalobos on Proposal

PA281512 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1205 GMT 28 May 87

[Interview with FMLN Commander Joaquin Villalobos, a member of the FMLN General Command, by unidentified questioner; date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] Commander Joaquin Villalobos, what does the proposal our fronts have just presented to the country mean for our people and how can it be summarized?

[Villalobos] The proposal consists of two parts. The first part, which contains 18 points, is essentially motivated by the grave situation our people are experiencing. In addition to the war, there are now the natural disasters and the massive deportation problem of Salvadorans. In the face of this, we are dutybound to try and achieve peace or at least reduce, as we pointed out, the economic, social, and political impact of the war. The second part, which is divided into two parts, includes the idea of achieving the reactivation of dialogue. First, it proposes that dialogue must have a national character and include the participation of all sectors. The second part of the section on the reactivation of the dialogue contains the specific proposal that, aside from the 18 points, the reactivation of the dialogue should be considered in terms of a national dialogue. That is more or less what has been presented.

[Question] Companero Villalobos, what are the implications for our country if this proposal is adopted?

[Villalobos] Specifically referring to the 18 points, which touch on aspects of humanization and aspects dealing with the impact of the war, we believe the adoption of all these measures would be well received by the people, the international community, the humanitarian organizations, and the church. The consequences would, in fact, greatly benefit peace. This agreement would, for example, permit the immediate repopulation of all territory; the return of all or the majority of refugees; the reconstruction of towns, villages, and cantons; and economic reactivation, which is an issue that greatly worries the government, army, and private enterprise. There would be no reason for the economic packages that have caused so much discontent among our people. The government and the army have argued that the economic packages are needed because of the war. This agreement would reduce their expenditures by eliminating the high costs of their war and the security and protection of the economic structure. The population would then have great guarantees for their lives and property. The conflict would then be reduced, in its military aspect, to combat waged with methods and weapons that would enormously reduce the possibility of civilian casualties.

Institutions could even be set up to protect and guard the population when there are battles. The two sides would obviously respect such institutions. All these measures would also reduce the debt owed to the United States and the level of U.S. intervention. I think the most important aspect of the adoption of all these measures is that it would force both sides to a political-ideological confrontation to win followers and the solidarity of the people. In this way, the people would become the factor of pressure that would promote political understanding between the sides, fundamentally among Salvadorans. This would promote a national solution and the rescue of our sovereignty.

[Question] In recent weeks, the government has conducted a propaganda campaign to show an alleged improvement in its respect for human rights. What impact does the FMLN-FDR proposal have on that claim by the Duarte government?

[Villalobos] We think this proposal will prove whether the government is telling the truth with its campaign. Our proposal is a valuable test so our people will not only see the arguments used by the government in propaganda terms but also in terms of reality.

[Question] What do you think will be the effects of this proposal on our people, who so many times have been frustrated by the government's refusal to find political solutions to the conflict?

[Villalobos] One must bear in mind that our people have already suffered several frustrations and there is not much belief the government will listen to a peace proposal. We can say that first, everything will depend on what the government says, on the government's reply to our 18 points and to the proposal for the reopening of the dialogue. Aside from all this and from whether the reply is negative or positive, our proposal permits our people to establish a clear difference between the counterinsurgency war, which is supplied and directed by the U.S. Government, and the revolutionary people's war in terms of principles and the human, economic, and social aspects. They can clearly ascertain who is responsible for the most important social consequences of the war such as depopulation and civilian deaths. In accordance with the government's reply, the proposal will also permit the people to find out who is responsible for the achievement or nonachievement of a political solution to the conflict. Finally, the most important thing is that it will provide our people — depending on the government's reply — with a more solid base to the struggle currently being waged. If this proposal is rejected, this rejection would be added to the rejection of all their demands, and it would, as we have said, lay the foundation for a legitimate radicalization within the context of the justice of the total struggle being waged by the workers, cooperative members, students, and all our people in general.

Minister Viera Discusses Plan

PA280430 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Today the guerrillas proposed to the government the humanization of the war, according to a note delivered by Archbishop Rivera y Damas.

The guerrilla proposal was announced today in Bogota by FDR President Guillermo Ungo, who is attending a meeting of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political parties, COPPPAL. The main topic at the COPPPAL meeting is the Central American conflict. Ungo said the contents of the note will be made public in 18 hours, after Archbishop Rivera y Damas delivers it to Durate's government. Ungo added that the proposal for humanizing the war is aimed at preventing civilians from becoming victims of the battles between guerrillas and soldiers. According to Ungo, the document has 18 points, including, among others, a treaty on prisoners and [words indistinct] of weapons and bombings. He said the proposal has been made within the framework of the process of dialogue that began in 1984 and has remained at a standstill since then.

Deputy Communications Minister Roberto Edmundo Viera described the guerrilla proposal as a propaganda stunt because, according to him, in reality it is the FMLN who violate human rights in our country. Regarding the peace plan announced by FDR Leader Guillermo Ungo in an attempt to reduce the sufferings of the civilian population entangled in the present Salvadoran conflict, Viera said the plan has not yet been received officially by President Duarte. He added that it is a contradictory plan, as the FMLN actions during the past 7 days caused great harm to the population.

[Begin Viera recording, in progress] ...between Guillermo Ungo's proposal, between his plans for reducing the damage caused to the civilian population and what the FMLN is doing. Therefore, before presenting his proposal to the government, Guillermo Ungo should present it to the FMLN commanders so they will stop causing so much harm to the civilian population in El Salvador. [end recording]

Regarding the upcoming transportation stoppage announced by the guerrillas, Viera said the Armed Forces will redouble their efforts to prevent possible acts of violence.

Regarding alleged cabinet changes announced for 1 June, he said it is quite possible that there will be changes. Viera also denied that the war [words indistinct] as the FMLN commanders and leaders are contradicting themselves. There are disagreements and contradictions among themselves because while they propose a reduction in the intensity of the war, they are increasing the number of terrorist actions, attacks, and planting of mines, which result in great harm to the population in our country.

COPREFA, RADIO VENCEREMOS CITED ON CASUALTIES

PA271802 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 May 87

[Text] According to a Coprefa weekly report, last week's clashes resulted in 15 casualties, including dead and wounded. Coprefa adds that 112 peasants died during those 7 days, and 14 others were wounded as a result of FMLN actions. The FMLN is also responsible for kidnapping 50 people. According to Coprefa, guerrilla mines planted in rural areas killed one civilian and injured nine others. The report adds that in a 1-week period the Army confiscated 14 rifles, 1 grenade launcher, 23 mines, and 15 hand grenades from the FMLN. The FMLN General Command reported this morning to have killed and wounded approximately 214 soldiers during the past week. According to a Radio Venceremos transmission, the final 17 casualties occurred on Saturday when rebel units ambushed a 3-truck convoy guarding several fuel tanks approaching the eastern zone.

CASTRO ADDRESSES CLOSING OF FARMERS CONGRESS

FL212246 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2018 GMT 17 May 87

[Speech by Fidel Castro closing the Seventh ANAP Congress at Havana's Karl Marx Theater — live]

[Text] Distinguished Guests, Comrades: Today we mark one more anniversary of the death of Aniceto Perez, one more anniversary of the Agrarian Reform Law, one more anniversary of the founding of the ANAP, and, I believe, also the anniversary of the second meeting of cooperatives. In particular, the work of the Seventh ANAP Congress concludes today. It is necessary to remember or ponder some things as we make these closing remarks, and that is the colossal change that has taken place in the countryside over these years since the triumph of the revolution in 1959. This change began with the Agrarian Reform Law. Then, our country's best land was in the hands of U.S. firms. The rest was mostly in the hands of landowners. Very few peasants owned their land. The vast majority had to pay rent or were metayers, tenant farmers who handed over a percentage of their production, or were conditional tenants.

On the eastern mountains, where we lived with the peasants for several years, we were able to see the vast majority of those peasants were conditional tenants and were in danger of being evicted. After the peasants cleared the hills and planted coffee or pasture, other people rushed to claim their land. The revolution put an end to that type of exploitation to which our peasants were subjected. It turned all metayers, renters, conditional tenants, all those who in one way or another worked the land, into land owners. The large expanse of land under capitalist exploitation, as we have explained before, was not divided into plots but was turned into state enterprises owned by all the people. We did not turn our agricultural proletariat into peasants; we actually gave the large farm enterprises the same status we gave to industries. We believe the measure was absolutely correct, historically. If we had to organize the cooperative movement today with the hundreds of thousands of agricultural laborers turned small farm owners, I believe all of you, exceptional witnesses to this process of agricultural development and higher forms of production, would understand the big obstacles we faced at this time. Of course, if we had divided those large expanses of land planted with sugarcane, rice, and other crops into small farms, we would have practically wiped out the sugarcane industry in our country; we would have wiped out the large rice fields and the largest centers of agricultural production. All my life I have believed that the small farm is not the best way to exploit land. Imagine the enormous cane fields turned into 3- or 4-hectare plots for sugarcane, rice, beans, yucca, plantain, poultry, pigs, sheep, goats, and other animals. I believe our sugar production in those large cane fields where the sugar mills were in fact located would not have surpassed 30 or 40 percent of the capitalists' sugar production. The same would have happened with the extensive fields planted with rice and other crops. That mistake was not made. We prevented it, unlike the usual case in revolutionary agricultural processes which begin to affect production considerably. We did not make that mistake and because of this, it was possible to make extraordinary progress in the mechanization of the sugarcane industry. Of course, as you may remember, when the revolution triumphed there were no canecutting machines; they could not have existed.

Our peasants would have strongly opposed it and would have made cane cutting mechanization impossible. At the time hundreds of thousands of workers cut cane for a few months. Furthermore, when the revolution triumphed, lines formed at canecutting stations. During those early years when there were so many possibilities, when hundreds of thousands of jobs were created, when peasants became owners of their land, when they no longer had to migrate from cane fields to coffee plantations and from coffee plantations to rice fields, and so forth, we faced one of the most difficult problems of the revolution: How to handle the sugar harvest. There were no machines, nor was there an army of unemployed that organized itself to cut and plant sugar cane. It was not an easy problem. I remember those days in which Che, who was the industry minister, tried to create the first mechanical canecutter prototype. Some photographs of that time are still around. Then, when the harvest approached, tens of thousands and later hundreds of thousands of laborers and workers from the city, who worked in industries or other areas, had to be mobilized to cut cane.

We were able to maintain and even increase relatively high production rates. The large cane plantations were maintained but we did not have the manpower to cut cane. It is not easy to imagine. I believe that many of today's young people have no idea of the efforts that this entailed -- the expense and the sacrifices the massive mobilization of cane cutters required. Technical difficulties were finally overcome and a cane harvester was built. There were no canecutting machines anywhere during the early years of the revolution. The model, the prototype had to be developed. Many difficulties had to be overcome until finally the first cane cutting machines were built. In the meantime, other ideas came up. The first of all was the cane lifter [alzadora], because in our country they not only had to cut but also lift by hand over 50 million tons of cane at each harvest. The lifters were the first ones -- if I remember correctly, Soviet hay lifters were the first ones to be brought to our country. Cane lifting began to be mechanized. The idea of collection and preprocessing centers came later. This increased the cane cutters' productivity. No one could have imagined then that it would later be used to feed cattle.

The first harvesters were developed and built. During that period we were also forced to introduce a practice which from the agricultural point of view was not the most suitable. This was the burning of cane, since the first harvesters did not cut the cane well if it was not burned.

Even with collection and preprocessing centers, yields were less if cane was not burned. Still, in 1970, 350,000 cane cutters had to be mobilized. So there has been a big leap in the productivity of the sugarcane harvest. The number of cane cutters has been reduced by almost 300,000 to some 700,000. Only as a result of the last hurricane which almost crossed the island from one end to the other were we forced to increase the number of workers who collect the cane left by the machine on the furrows. That was being left behind as a result of the cut and jumbled cane. This practice was stopped later when we discovered the economic advantage of continuing to use the collectors to avoid wasting cane that machines left behind.

It is a fact today the harvest is carried out in a relatively comfortable way if compared to those enormous mobilizations we had been forced to undertake.

Other techniques were introduced and so forth. The entire process of land conditioning and most of the planting were mechanized. Herbicides were introduced. Airplanes began to be used to spray herbicides. At times planes were also used to fertilize with urea spray. The same thing that happened with the cane happened in the rice fields -- harvests were mechanized, large irrigation systems were built, planes were used for seeding, and the rice harvest was mechanized. The same surge in mechanization took place in all agricultural activities on the mountains, where it was impossible to take a bulldozer [previous word rendered in English] or a tractor. Agricultural activities such as preparing the land, planting, transportation were completely mechanized in our country.

Specialized enterprises for each of the crops were developed. Some were developed for citrus, others for tubers and vegetables, cattle raising, sugarcane, rice. Rotation of pastures was introduced; mechanized cow milking was introduced. It is very hard to find a dairy that does not have electricity, where cow milking is not mechanized, and where milk is not kept refrigerated. Finding someone who milks cows by hand has turned into a practically impossible task. Similar mechanized processes took place in many other areas such as the ports, in bulk sugar, transportation, construction -- in sum, all those activities in which the work is harder, tougher, have been made considerably easier.

This enormous agricultural development process, increased productivity, mechanization -- would it have been possible with small farms? Could those enormous irrigation systems have been built, could those bulldozers have been used, those harvesters, that technique? It would have been practically impossible. The revolution was forced to cut cane and harvest the fields of numerous individual land owners who knew that society, the country, and the revolution needed that cane but did not bother to take care of it. It had to be cut, collected, transported, and harvested, so it could be taken to the sugar mills. Later the happy land owner to whom the revolution had given the land got a check.

Every year was a struggle. We would suddenly see a drop in the sugarcane activity in the area owned by private farmers. This was simply because sugarcane production was a hard job and it was much easier, and much more comfortable for them to plant other crops. Not only was it easier and much more comfortable, but many times it was more profitable. Had this been allowed to continue, much of the land around the sugarmills would have been without sugarcane.

For many years, much of the state's money was invested in this type of development. Hundreds of dams were built; thousands upon thousands of cubic meters of water were impounded. We have some statistics on the amount of water impounded for use in agriculture in the past; it was less than 50 million cubic meters. Today we have more than 5 billion cubic meters of water impounded. The amount of surface water available today for agricultural purposes is 100 times more than the water available in the past.

Huge amounts of money were invested in the irrigation system, in the construction of secondary roads, main roads, electrification of the rural areas. Approximately 500 basic secondary schools and pre-university schools directly related to the agricultural development of the revolution were also built. Where were they built? In the citrus, vegetable, and tuber producing areas.

The young student could participate in these activities while attending school. None of these education plans, the implementation of the revolutionary principle as expressed by Marx and Marti, would have been possible without the agricultural plans drafted as higher forms of agricultural production. The revolution invested huge amounts of money to put these plans into practice.

However, the revolution did not devote all its time to the large agricultural areas. It also worked closely with the small farmers. At that time there were approximately 200,000 small farmers who had 20 percent of the country's agricultural lands. State-owned land, acquired through the first and second agrarian reform and at times purchased from farmers who could no longer work their land or who joined the State's agricultural plans, added up to 80 percent of the country's available agricultural land. But for many years, we worked with the private farmers.

The time came when it was necessary, for the development of the agricultural system, to boost production plans, the productivity of land, and to adopt a superior form of production in the private farmer's sector, in the small farmer's sector. Through the years, the revolution had been offering support to the small farmers. We could add that the revolution not only gave and guaranteed land for the peasants, but also, from the very beginning, built schools and hospitals and sent teachers and doctors to rural areas. The revolution also launched a very big literacy campaign and put into effect health plans that helped eradicate disease and reduced the infant mortality rate. Who knows what the infant mortality rate was during capitalist days? We can all remember the epidemics that ravaged our countryside and killed our peasant children. The revolution not only decreased the infant mortality rate in the rural areas to levels that today are the lowest in all the Third World countries and many developed countries, but it also built secondary roads and main roads, and brought communications and electricity to the rural areas. The revolution also brought in machines that sharply cut down on the physical efforts of our agricultural workers. It not only brought schools to the rural areas but it also gave peasant children a chance to study beyond the primary school level.

The peasant children were given the chance to go to secondary school. Tens of thousands of the children of our peasants were educated to become teachers, professors, nurses, medical technicians, doctors, engineers, specialists of various kinds, and FAR officers. Not only did the revolution do all this for our peasants but it also helped them economically.

We could say that for more than 20 years, the peasants never paid a single cent in taxes. This to me is unique in the world. The revolution granted the peasants hundreds of millions of pesos in loans. These were interest-free loans. Not only did they get the loans, but when we suffered the effects of a hurricane or when a drought or plague caused heavy damage, when for one reason or another the peasant was not able to pay back the loan, it was often cancelled.

It was only a few years ago that certain agricultural products were taxed; this is a rather symbolic tax. Coffee, cacao, tobacco, and some other agricultural products are not taxed. The revolution was the universal social security fund for all the peasants. The cooperatives and the peasant associations were given as many machines as they needed; they were given as many trucks and tractors as they needed. This means they were given as many trucks and tractors as they said they needed.

The support for the sector was huge, complete, absolute. They deserved it, it was fair, and this is what the revolution wanted to do for our peasants.

But the day came when changes were necessary. We could not continue with the old ways of production; with the private, small plot, backward type of production. Many of the problems of our area could not be resolved. We had to find a way to develop our rural areas, provide all the peasant families with electricity, organize adequate schools, bring the children to the schools, provide the peasants in the plains and on the mountains with the benefits of civilization, give them a proper roof over their heads, a decent home, running water, and electricity. With electricity came many advantages, ranging from an electric iron, to a mixer, refrigerator, television, fan, washing machine, even air conditioning if it is too hot, and lights.

How to take to the peasants the most precious advantages of man's progress? How to take the canecutting harvesters with reasonable and rational productivity, the large machines that break the ground; how to take the canals and irrigations systems? How to use aviation in agriculture, how to rationalize the land and plant in each square meter what should be planted in each square meter in accordance with the topography of the land, the degree of hardness, humidity, porosity, etc., or the mineral composition of the soil? How to plant each thing in what can be said is its place, where the maximum productivity is achieved, where it is possible to get water? How to better use over 100,000 caballerias of land? Many of these are the best ones because, in general, peasants have historically settled in valleys, where there was a certain degree of humidity, where there were more resources. How to find, in economic terms, the maximum productivity per hectare or caballeria of those lands, since cane productivity had to be increased as the country's development plans demanded, since citrus plans had to continue to be enlarged along with the tuber and vegetable, meat and milk plans, etc. How to combine all those economic, social, and human advantages? The cooperative movement had to be encouraged, the creation of livestock-agricultural production cooperatives had to be encouraged. After 20 years of revolution it was becoming a shame that a considerable portion of our land continued to be exploited as in the times of the Spanish conquistadors. It was a shame that next to the considerable revolutionary and social progress, of the considerable progress made in industry, many areas of the country retained prehistoric methods of agricultural production in a large part of our land. Moving toward higher forms of agricultural production is not simply someone's idea, someone's preference, or a whim. It is a deep human need. I began talking about the human aspects of the matter, a deep social need, a deep economic need, a nutritional need.

I mentioned a number of transactions, arrangements, pre-contracts, contracts, etc., that have to be made every day and every year with hundreds of thousands -- in this case there were 200,000 individual peasants. Loans had to be provided for each one of them, supplies and materials had to be provided for each one of them and their lots, the land prepared in each one of their sections. We had to supply plant or animal health services, and collect the goods; two, three, four hens, one pig, a pig and a half, half a pig, 40 liters of milk and a tank to collect it in. And it had to be picked up early because it was not refrigerated and the milk could get sour. The milk had to be transported bucket by bucket. A quintal more or a quintal less of rice, beans. A truck load one day with plaintains and the next with sweet potatoes. A truck the day after that with vegetables. One truck stopping off at several units to be loaded, etc., etc. Truly prehistoric methods.

At the state farm, at the dairy that has 288 cows and electricity, the day's milk is kept at just the right temperature until the arrival of the truck that will take away 11,000, 1,500, or 2,000 liters of milk. A small property can produce perhaps 50, 60, or 100 liters of milk. Gentlemen, if this country were forced to supply its people with milk picked up in hundreds of thousands of buckets around the country, I think this would be a real problem. If this country were forced to supply the people with eggs after picking egg after egg from nest after nest throughout the country, we would not be able to eat the 250 million eggs we eat each year. More than 90, 95, 98 percent of the country's egg production comes not from the small farms but from organized enterprises that raise hundreds of thousands of hens, and thousands of hens lay 250, 260, and at times, 300 eggs each year. These hens can produce an egg with a minimum consumption of mixed feed. The feed is very well measured, mathematically calculated. These hens are given the best care against all types of disease, and there are many diseases. Thousands of millions of eggs are gathered and no one ever finds out about this. They are in their boxes, they are packed one by one, they are transported, properly kept in the cold storage rooms for as long as necessary, and our people can get their eggs. It is a highly nutritional product and at a good price. The people pay 9, 10, or 11 centavos per egg according to the time of year.

It is true that the domestic hen produces a very nice egg; good for birthdays, or to greet a member of the family who is visiting from the city. [laughter] Chicken with rice can be made with the meat of a domestic chicken. The domestic hen usually lays 10, 12 or 14 eggs and then sits to hatch the eggs. She becomes a brood hen. I think that is what they call those hens. [laughter] She sits on her eggs, the chicks are born, she raises the chicks and feeds them. Six months later you have half a chicken. [laughter] If this were the system we used to feed our more than 10 million people, we would be lost. Our poultry production has grown and it is currently producing 100,000 tons per year. If we were to do this on the basis of domestic chickens, we would not even have 10,000 tons of poultry.

More than 90 percent of the pork the people receive, much of the beef the people eat, more than 90 percent of the sugarcane supplied to the sugarmills, more than 90 percent of the rice distributed among the people, more than 80 percent of the citrus products we export, all these important products that have helped us live and develop our economy, were produced through higher forms of production. This has been possible thanks to the hard work of hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers who are so generous that they have always been willing to do anything. This has been possible thanks to the hard work of production. This has been possible thanks to the hard work of hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers who are so generous that they have always been willing to do anything. This has also been possible thanks to the help in any other activity. It was also possible thanks to the efforts of hundreds of thousands of our students, perhaps millions of them, who have practiced the beautiful principle of Marx and Marti and have combined study with work. Our secondary, pre-university, and technological institute students have helped by working in the fields picking citrus products, vegetables, tobacco, etc.

But our country learned better ways of producing and very fair ways of producing. Many times our workers had to cut the sugarcane for that private land owner who did not remember that we had a Republic. Of course, we had some exceptions, not everyone was like that. I just mention this as an example. For many reasons, the time had come to promote higher forms of agricultural production among our peasant sector.

Our loyal ally, the firm ally of our working class, our noble, honest and patriotic peasants, our revolutionary peasants... [interrupted by applause] whose spirit we saw during the first months, the first days of our landing, throughout the struggle on the mountains, and over 28 years of revolution, during the construction of socialism, in the defense of the revolution and the fatherland.

It could not be left to spontaneity. It is not possible to advance on spontaneity. It is not possible to build socialism. The time had come for our party and our revolutionary state to direct our peasants along these lines because if we are left with a backward section among our population, it will not be the fault of the peasants. It will be the fault of the state, the party, the revolutionary leadership.

When the last agrarian reform law was drafted, the peasants were promised there would be no more agrarian reforms.

The reforms had been legislated for the large foreign enterprises, the large land estates. It is always traumatic to have a reform that affects foreign enterprises which in some cases had more than 1,000 hectares. The second law affected a few thousand who had more than 65 hectares. The second law was more traumatic. It was necessary to bring calm to our rural areas. Those were the peasants, owners of their land, whom we call small peasants, small farmers, who worked with absolute confidence. The revolution made that promise; it has fulfilled it; and it will fulfill it. [applause]

There were special circumstances in our country. There were special circumstances. There were large foreign latifundia with more than 100,000 hectares. When the first law was passed reducing holdings to about 400, about 30 caballerias, and a maximum of 100 caballerias, it was traumatic. If one counts [corrects himself] if not takes into account that they had large expanses of land. When the second law reduced them to 65 hectares, it was considered to be a very radical law, super-radical.

It won the approval of the revolution and the hate of the imperialists. Plans were made to invade the country, to destroy the revolution. But when 65 hectares were left -- a relatively small parcel if we compare it with a large U.S. land owner like Standard Oil, no, not Standard Oil, United Fruit Company, which had 10,000 caballerias. What are 5 caballerias next to this? But in any social revolution, in any socialist revolution, 5 caballerias would be considered a large estate. In China, 5 caballerias was a gigantic estate.

Some names, revolutionary terminology, vocabularily emerged from this, such as rich peasants, kulaks, and others. In this revolution, which has its signs, characteristics, and peculiarities, a different kind of effort was made to unite, to unite [repeats himself], to join together the private land owners, who, with 65 hectares, were the same as one who had 3 hectares or 5 hectares. We came together under one category called small farmers [agricultores pequenos] or small farmers [pequenos agricultores]. It's a question of words but I remember when we were talking with Pepe [nickname of outgoing ANAP President Jose Ramirez Cruz] about the name of the organization -- I think I have told this at one time or another -- we called it the National Association of Small Farmers [Asociacion Nacional de Pequenos Agricultores] but that would have been ANPA, without an "H" or an "M" but it would have sounded almost the same as the Cuban underworld [hampa].

I said, Pepe, it can't be. It can't be; we must find another name. OK, ANAP National Association of Small Farmers [Asociacion Nacional de Agricultores Pequenos]. And Pepe said, not without good reason, that this meant very small farmers. I said, look, when we name it, everyone will know what it is. We could not find a better name than the ANAP and everyone came under that category, the small, small one and the one who had more land.

Of course, there were still farmers with 40, 50, 60, 65 hectares of land who needed additional labor. I have explained to you the revolutionary principle that land is for the person who works it. Of course, one could not say that this principle was being applied in an absolute way because there were a number of land owners who had to use a paid work force. If it was a matter of raising cattle on extensive pastures, it was easy for a family to have a herd, but when it was a matter of harvesting tobacco, vegetables, certain tubers, which require a large work force, it was impossible to plant and harvest without paid labor force. People could become rich because five caballerias of properly planted potato yield thousands of pesos a year; it would be hard to spend all that money. There were a certain number of cases. I know about some cases of citrus fields that were not even owned by the person who lived there. He worked there and stayed after the owner left for the United States. It yielded 50,000 or 60,000 pesos in profits.

However, the revolution never wanted to sub-divide peasants. The division between poor and rich peasants had occurred everywhere, in all revolutionary processes. I never wanted to use the kulak category. I believe the style of the revolution is to follow the road of unity, work, persuasion, face those inconveniences for the sake of unity to avoid divisions among our peasants. That has been a norm the revolution has followed. We believe it is the right way. Proletariat state power will not be enforced through laws, through legal pressure or coercion in order to move along the paths that are good for the country and the revolution. This is why that line and that principle were set. The revolution said there would be no more agrarian laws. Work has to be carried out with persuasive methods. If there is an influence or pressure it should be a moral one within the scope of our society, within the limits of our principles. If we are to accomplish certain social objectives at this stage of the revolution this should be done by gradual methods and not radical ones. Undoubtedly, this is the most suitable approach in every sense, in a political, economic, and social sense; it is the correct thing. We firmly believe that sooner or later we will guide all remaining farmers, the remaining small plots, by these persuasive methods, toward higher forms of agricultural production.

There is a phenomenon and you know it well -- many of the peasants' children, of the small and medium size plot farmers, have gone to universities and many plots have been left without their own labor force. Many peasants have grown older. A number of them -- this was discussed during the congress -- cannot take care of the land. Young people have different criteria, ideas, concepts, education. Logically, they will adopt the new forms of production.

There is also woman, who is the slave of the home and domestic chores despite our struggle. The one who suffers the most because water has to be collected sometimes hundreds of meters away, who feels the pressure of taking care of the house, the kitchen, the pressure of the children. As a rule and principle she defends the higher forms of production because of the unquestionable advantages they represent for her.

A peasant from El Escambray was telling us -- one of the pioneers of the cooperative movement on the mountains -- he told us here at the congress that when he began his cooperative on the mountains, one of the most difficult places -- because machines could not be used there -- they decided, with manual work and will, to create a cooperative. Later, some left and only two remained. He was explaining to us that it was starting to get more people again because of its success. He came out in favor of lowering the retirement age for women for men. But he was mainly concerned about women. He talked about how tired they got for working so much with so many children, struggling under those conditions. This was a fairly well debated subject. It is a complex topic.

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On the other hand we had the case of excessive retirements that considerably increased the retirement system's expenditure beyond its means. But he was explaining, and very graphically, that if the retirement age for women were lowered, the women themselves would take their husbands to the cooperatives. We are aware that women have been a force, a factor.

It is also unquestionable that cooperatives should meet with success because the volunteer principle -- that is what it is about -- requires that people join because they are convinced of the cooperatives' unquestionable advantages in every sense. That and many other factors will help to overcome the prevalent conservative or individualistic spirit and to develop the cooperative movement.

There are psychological factors involved in this: the century-old custom of the small plot of land, individual work habits, the preference of this way, the lack of confidence in cooperatives solving the problems, whether supplies were guaranteed or not. We cannot ignore this psychological reality, the reality of habits, traditions. Added to this is a natural suspicion, the peasant's mistrust of new things, those kinds of changes.

Due to our country's conditions, we have a special circumstance. Our peasants did not live in villages as they did in Europe, in the old tsarist empires, in many Indian communities. [Havana International Service in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 17 May 87 in a rebroadcast of Fidel Castro's speech reveals the following variation: in many Indian communities in Latin America and Africa.] Those people, for some reason, lived in villages, perhaps for mutual cooperation, protection from wild animals, cold, ice, -- who knows? In our country, the peasants lived by themselves, isolated on their plots of land. Naturally, this creates habits and customs. This even led us to make some mistakes, or one mistake at the beginning of the revolution. It was not a cooperative. It was a people's farm, as it was then called, north of Pinar del Rio, near Santa Lucia. I believe it was called El Rosario and was devoted to cattle. It was one of the first towns created. We made a concession to what could be called the rural mentality. They were not peasants because they were workers. But they were of peasant origin because they lived in the countryside. They were asked how they wanted the town and they said they wanted detached houses. Not only detached but far from each other. And with the enthusiasm of the early days, the dreams, and the lack of experience, we decided to build a town in keeping with the preferences of those peasants. I don't know how many houses were built; maybe Luz [not further identified] or someone else remembers, but they were a good number of houses. At that time there were no microbrigades or anything like that. A construction enterprise went there and built the marvel of the century. It built the most beautiful, the most pastoral houses. The houses were about 100 or 200 meters apart because they said they did not want to live close together. The town stands there as a historical monument to the good will and dreams of men. It only has one positive thing and that is the evidence of the fondness and respect we feel for our peasants. [applause] It made us build the impossible city. No one knows the caballerias that town used up. No one knows how many pipes were used for irrigation, drainage, electricity, etc. etc. I have not been there in years. Maybe the nostalgia of those times will make me visit that fantastic town.

Peasants do not like to live close to each other. But a peasant finds himself living isolated on his plot and there is no doubt that an isolated little house with a big garden in the middle would be fantastic not only in the countryside but also in the capital. That is what the big millionaires were looking for. That is how they built Miramar and all those other neighborhoods. They built small recreational farms. If the revolution does not get here in time, everything would have gone downhill, all those citrus groves would have been turned today into recreational farms surrounded by stone fences. Those stone fences are so bad that according to history, the Bronze Titan [Antonio Maceo] died because of a stone fence. Since there were many stones and people to collect them they surrounded the farm; they were turned into recreational farms. I don't know what was going to be left to feed the people.

Just think, if we build isolated houses in the capital surrounded by gardens, we would reach Artemisa to the west, Batabano to the south, and Matanzas to the east. The 70,000 tons of sugar the City of Havana [corrects himself] the province of Havana produces would disappear, in addition to millions of quintals of potato, vegetables; who knows where else we would get the one million [liters] of milk the capital produces almost every day. The facts force many agricultural communities to have multiple family buildings. Our workers live in multiple family buildings because we do not have enough land. We cannot use land for individual houses. Besides, urbanization under those conditions is very expensive.

In the capital we have no other choice than to build vertically. In Havana, Santiago, and other cities some space is still available but here we have to build vertically, 5, 10, 12-story buildings. Santiago de Cuba is boxed in in that valley and has no land; there is no way that individual houses can be built. It may be a solution to have independently built houses where land is available. But our land needs to be saved.

We have almost 100 inhabitants per square kilometer, a little less than 0.4 hectares of agricultural area per inhabitant. We have to produce almost 1 ton of exportable sugar, citrus, tobacco, pepper, etc., and to produce food for the population also. If we analyze the mathematical data -- I believe I used that data in the first or second congress, when we were fewer than we are now -- we grow every year. The amount of agricultural land per inhabitant was already very small, very small. I am not counting the mountains or the big swamps but the land that can be plowed, that can be cultivated, where the sugarcane and food come from. Our biggest citrus plan is underway in Jaguey, south of Matanzas, close to Diente Perro. Bulldozers have to go there to level the ground first, breaking surface rocks with their blades, opening holes with dynamite to be able to put in plants in pockets of dirt. In spite of this we get excellent citrus crops because it has the water table, very good natural conditions. That is where we have the citrus plan and in areas such as the Isle of Youth, which cannot be used for other crops.

Hundreds of caballerias of rocky land that could not be cultivated have been recovered in Havana Province. Southeast of Havana Province we spread turf and created soil to plant pasture. I don't know if all of us are sufficiently aware of our shortage of land, and the need to increase production per hectare because the population grows but the surface does not. Land is constantly lost in the new railroads, highways, roads, factories, schools, collection centers--in everything that is built. We have increasingly less land. The land tends to diminish and the population grows. We are not in Argentina, which is several millions of square kilometers and 30 million people. Those are facts that need to be kept in mind.

We need to use science, technology in looking for more and more productive varieties, such as rice. Current varieties produce two and three times more than previous varieties. Our country, our society urgently needs to maximize land. When we can recover a piece of land, we recover it and work with that land. Recently, I was thinking about the situation we have with the sugarcane harvest, about how vulnerable our sugar crop is to rain, especially heavy rains. I was asking myself, have we over mechanized? Has our mechanization been such that a 50 millimeter rain, 2-inch rain, stops us? Some areas north of Sancti Spiritus and Villa Clara stop for 15, 21 days.

I asked the sugar industry comrades and the vice president of the Council of Ministers in charge of agriculture about this. I told them we should think about it. We have 25, 30 plus sugar mills. Will we have to de-mechanize? We are thinking and working on that. Of course, de-mechanizing is more difficult and there is the belief that with adequate drainage work those prolonged interruptions could be avoided. Of course, we have been doing drainage work there for years and apparently it will have to be intensified. That means we should take our land, the dry one that doesn't have a good rain record, and irrigate according to the crop. The country has made enormous efforts in that regard. We have to find formulas to maximize irrigation and stop wasting water. We have to carry out all necessary drainage work in the lowlands. In sum, find out how we can maximize the exploitation of our land so that it produces more per hectare. Not only a higher production per hectare but also a higher production per man. If a solution is not found for drainage, it should at least be ready within 24, 48 hours. Rains have done damage to the sugarcane harvest this year. Our fundamental problems have not been solved.

Toward the end of 1985 we had a hurricane, a severe drought also. The hurricane was toward the end, the very bad drought in 1986. In addition, we had heavy rains in the middle of the harvest. In Pinar del Rio, especially in the western part of the country, this affected the harvest and the potato, tomato, and vegetable crops. It also rained quite a bit in central Cuba. In addition to the 1 million-ton shortage resulting from the hurricane and the two consecutive droughts -- 1 million tons -- we are also around 1/2 million tons short. With a serious effort, we will reach around 7.1 tons. That is, aside from the sugar shortage we already had at the beginning of the year or at the end of last year, when the measures were proposed at the National Assembly, we found ourselves with an unexpected 1/2 million less. We were already 1 million tons behind and this is now being reduced. We hope it will be just 1/2 million. The figure is improving right now. That is why it is so important to grind the cane left and to plant what needs to be planted. But the rains came along and interrupted the harvest many times.

I am not including subjective and other kinds of factors in this. I am speaking of water, the interruptions that caused the reduction in sugar yields. Water not only stops the harvest but it reduces sugar yields. The sum of the two explains the shortages and drops. We are vulnerable. We cannot give up the machines. We cannot give them up and I hope you understand why. We could probably reduce them in some places but basically it is impossible to do without the machines, tractors, trucks, and combines. The damage is less serious on higher ground. It is much greater in the lowlands. Our people have to face many difficulties, droughts and hurricanes. Many months may go by without rain and then hundreds of millimeters fall in a few days. These are facts and they force us to improve, to be smarter, more practical, more intelligent, to face every one of the problems. Each advantage brings its disadvantages. It is impossible to go back to the age of the oxen and of manual cutting. It is impossible. No one can do that. Capitalism is the only one that could do that with hundreds of thousands of unemployed people and in the midst of desperate hunger when a citizen did not have any other chance of survival than doing it. Nowadays there are no men available to carry 325-pound bags.

Well, there would always be volunteers but not anyone who would systematically cut rice with a sickle. The sickle is brandished today as a political instrument but not as an instrument to cut rice. It is a symbol. We will not use a hammer to build roads, men will not milk a cow by hand. That type of citizen from the times of colonialism, slavery, and the neocolony no longer exists here. I mention this, because we should think about the reality, the difficulties, so we may conclude that we simply need to maximize our natural and human resources, so we can realize we live in different times and are entering a new phase. This means change. We have to adapt to new circumstances, to the new age, new life. Thus, that sentimental, nostalgic feeling for men living in isolation in the countryside and on the mountains will become something of the past.

I don't know where they will carry out the palms and cane program but I imagine it will be done in a good cooperative. Well built, pretty, with gardens, electric power, a school, store, family doctor, social circle, etc, etc. That will be the new life. [applause] This will be done on the basis of the strictest principles, will, persuasion, and efficient political and economic work. So let's march with quickening pace along that path without traumas and in an orderly fashion.

In light of this reasoning, especially in light of the fact that our peasants were left with plots of land ranging from 1 to 65 hectares after the second agrarian reform, if we consider these special circumstances, we should be convinced the famous peasants' free market was a mistake. If we were to copy the experience of socialist countries -- and we are not forced to copy; when one falls into a habit of copying many mistakes are often made -- we would not have this market. Socialist countries had experimented with it. However, socialist countries had -- I don't know, 1/4 hectare, 1/4 hectare [repeats himself] -- some 1,000, 2,000 meters. I don't know how much land a peasant has in a kolkhoz. Some 2,000 meters? He has a cow, a pig, and six hens. Of course, one can raise 10,000 hens on 2,000 meters of land. If you get corn and wheat from collective land, it is a fact that one can raise maybe 20,000 hens in this space. This of course is smaller than 1,000 meters. It is maybe 30 by 20 meters, it has an area of some 600 meters. Some 10,000 hens can be raised here. If one gets the grain from collective land. You can also raise 10 cows if you get the animal feed from collective lands. Anyway, a Soviet peasant or one from another socialist country has a very small piece of land. If he raises the pig and sells it or plants 500 meters of potato and sells the potatoes, or has 4 apple trees and sells the apples, it is hard for him to become a millionaire. It is hard.

Imagine with the free peasants' market, when a head of garlic cost 1 peso, and a plantain cost so much that a peasant with 50, 65, 30, 20 hectares could make money, become a millionaire, then that market cannot really be regulated because it would be a contradiction. You can't say: I am going to set prices; instead of selling the head of garlic at 1 peso, sell it at 15. The market would not longer be free, it would not be free [words indistinct] The guy goes to that market because he makes much more money. Imagine a peasant with 50 hectares, he would have more money than Julio Lobo [laughter] by selling at the free peasants' market. This besides the fact that the middleman class was created, besides the fact that all kinds of vices appeared; they started buying houses in cities.

The nouveau rich would come and buy the apartment that the revolution had given to the worker, perhaps because the latter had a problem; and the rich people would pay 30,000 or 40,000 and that is that — whatever! Workers earned 30,000 or 40,000 per year. This, of course, did not only affect the peasants. A new category of person was created; they were simply lured by the money. It seemed that a new banner had been raised in our society: Get rich. Get rich anyway you can; become a street peddler, sell things at higher prices, steal. Some happy truck owners earned more than 100,000 a year. Anyone who performed heart surgery at the Ameijeira Hospital would charge 5,000: And there were other things, that I don't even want to mention.

Certain men earned 300,000 pesos in a year selling handicrafts. I want to make it quite clear that this did not only involve the peasants. It was necessary to change this; it was necessary to change this [repeats himself]. A cooperative member from Pinar del Rio bitterly recalled yesterday how a forestry company had left him without workers who already had houses in a tobacco cooperative. That is very rich farmland. The workers had to make a down payment of only 4 pesos. They worked a double shift and profits were not high, but they had already built several houses. Suddenly it turned out that they could earn 10, 12, or 18 pesos at the forestry company and they only had to work half a shift. Many workers left the cooperative and went to work for the forestry company. The easy schedule and the excessively high wages — which had nothing to do with production figures — created all these types of problems.

It seemed that, instead of issuing the rallying cry of "Proletarians, unite! Proletarians and peasants, unite!" the revolution had said: Proletarians and peasants, get rich! Get rich! Bid farewell to voluntary work and to the spirit of human solidarity — that spirit which encourages men to carry out heroic feats and make great sacrifices; that spirit which encouraged the fighters to struggle and die at the Sierra Maestra, Escambray, and Playa Giron during the tyranny; or to carry out honorable internationalist missions. All this was done with a spirit of human solidarity, which is the most beautiful spirit that a human heart and mind can ever harbor. The other expression — get rich — became some kind of slogan that began to spread corruption. This was fortunately countered on time, without going back to idealistic attitudes. We could not incur the same mistakes; we had to implement the socialist formula; we had to counter the mercantilist spirit that had begun to spread; we had to perfect and use our mechanisms; and — above all — we had to carry out an in-depth analysis of our production costs. We had to discard the over-simple and ridiculous idea that socialism could be built with mechanisms, and that the work of the party and our society was not a necessary part of the process that should be planned, programmed, and carried out.

Only capitalism can be built with blind mechanisms and laws amid anarchy. Yes, we must use the appropriate mechanisms, but these mechanisms must be subordinated to men's work and must help carry out the work. This demands a lot of work under any circumstances. That is the party's goal and that is why it exists. This represents a lot of effort and planning. This demands a lot of political work and training — even education. This demands an honest, revolutionary, and socialist attitude. What else can we do if we want to increase our production?

Unfortunately, our production did not increase at all, or quality would be sacrificed whenever it did. Therefore, we picked up many bad habits. This, in turn, led to more peddlers. We are now producing more of the things that these peddlers used to produce, and this situation will increase. Mechanisms will also be applied, of course. You may say: There is no profit in making frying pans. I will make pots. Suddenly there are no more frying pans. All those things can be manufactured and the company...[corrects himself] the ministry or the planning organizations prepares the plans for this. Those things usually entail a lot of work but the profit margin is generally low, so there they go -- out of the market and out of sight.

Farming entails much more work and problems, with less profits, because the magician who establishes the prices made a mistake. The prices are established by men who work in an organization. These men have probably never seen a furrow so, whenever they calculate how much should be paid for a cucumber, they establish a price for the cucumber, another price for the tomatoes, and another price for the plantains. Consequently, we need a computer -- maybe a 10th-generation computer -- to tell us the daily price for cucumbers, peppers, plantains, sweet potatoes, potatoes, parsley, and baracoa burs [quisaso de baracoa]. [laughter]

It would set prices every day and cooperatives, peasants, and state enterprises would start asking not to plant more bananas and decide to plant baracoa burs, or say I am going to plant this and that. People expect agricultural enterprises to supply what they can. We are not saying that they supply wheat, oatmeal, barley, and things that are needed but are not grown in this climate; people expect all those things that can be supplied to be supplied. Some people got into the habit of producing four items. Instead of planting 17 products, I plant 4 because 17 are harder to take care of. They bring more difficulties and less profits. I begin working on a construction project in which moving land with a bulldozer yields a lot of profit; yet I do not complete it because during the final phase I have to put in little screws and that doesn't take me a profit. Yes, how many things one has to deal with! It is more difficult than winning the lottery's grand prize if we give up the idea of the plan, of the commitments to a socialist enterprise.

Of course, the products should cost what they're worth. There should be efficiency mechanisms. We cannot let a state farm plant what it pleases because then it distributes quotas, awards, I don't know what else. Maybe the best month to plant tomatoes is December...[corrects himself] or January and to harvest it is March. So farms plant all tomatoes in January and harvest them in March but then there are no tomatoes in December, January, February, April, May, June, or July. If there were a different variety...[changes thought] because grass also grows more in July, August -- it is hotter. One can even consider paying workers more during that month. One can decide to pay a higher price during that month. But we cannot let the enterprise just produce whatever it wishes, because then what has happened happens. Many people have forgotten some goods; they have disappeared from the market.

When the fantastic free market was invented in a country where landowners have up to 65 hectares, it was thought that we would have everything. Of course, some of these things were scarce and sometimes they were available. Garlic was planted after efforts were made by state enterprises. Incentives were given to peasants and the pound of garlic dropped from 6 pesos to 1 peso and the supply is enough for almost the entire year.

How can the needs of the people be met if there is no organization, no planning? If the one who is managing does not know what the people need not only during 1 but during 12 months of the year? This should be done without computers. If they are used, they should be given the information on what the people need and should be asked to estimate correctly how many hectares of each thing has to be planted. We are starting to do these things now. The idea that everything was solved with mechanisms brought us all these problems in industrial as well as agricultural production. It is easier to leave holes there so that the so-called private initiative may be introduced into the country moved by the desire to profit and steal, to produce anything and charge any price. Are we going to come to the conclusion that man is a stupid animal, incapable of thinking, of finding practical measures, of making projections, plans?

Today and during all these days in the congress we discussed these subjects. Initiatives were presented. Vegetable gardens have been created in almost all municipalities to avoid having to transport the products. Produce programs were submitted. Cooperatives and enterprises are beginning to set up vegetable gardens. Can the state produce all those goods? If it make some effort in planning, organizing, if there is an awareness that all the work done in socialism, contrary to capitalism, is not for profit but the fulfillment of people's needs. If the concept of profit is used it is subordinated to the essential and most important idea of satisfying peoples. Mechanisms need to adapt to that principle but these mechanisms cannot prevail on principle alone. That is clear. I don't believe that there is another way to build socialism— We don't have to invent capitalism, capitalism was invented a long time ago and operates according to its blind laws. Socialism is a creation of man when he reached maturity, when he reached adulthood, when man was considered capable of planning his life, his future. That is the effort we have been making.

Several delegates said the second meeting of cooperative members held last year was a decisive, historic moment. Many of them said very candidly, yes, we made mistakes, all kinds of mistakes. No one knew what a livestock-agricultural cooperative was anymore. They tended to trade anything. Some enterprises, instead of delivering goods to collection centers, delivered them to such and such enterprise' cafeteria, the other enterprise in turn delivered cement, iron rods, or any other raw material. The phenomenon arose that cooperatives turned into middlemen and lent their name to peddlers to produce brooms or anything else and to sell them. Cooperatives made tens of thousands of pesos without touching the goods. They had nothing to do with agriculture; they were commercial activities. They were turning into commercial cooperatives.

That is much better than working in the fields harvesting sugar cane. I think that was a historic event, not only because of the things that were corrected there, but also because it was then decided to abolish the free peasants market without delay. The free peasants market could have been countered with more and more taxes and it would have been doomed to extinction. However, the peasants categorically said: We must abolish it. The cooperatives' farmers said: We must abolish it. I believe the cooperative movement rendered a great service to the country. The decision was approved despite the inconveniences. The request was presented — practically overnight — to the agriculture sector and selected fruits enterprise: Please exert yourselves to fulfill this need. They really exerted themselves to the utmost.

There is more time available nowadays, with all the gardens, programs, and plans to supply even the free markets — but not the free peasants market.

They are still free markets, but they are no longer the free peasants markets; they now belong to the people and the state. No individual will benefit this way. Yes, this was a great thing and the results were included in a report. The efforts made by the cooperative and peasant sectors in 1986 increased production 42 percent even though the measure was implemented in May. Well, the products were then distributed through the parallel market or normal market, and the deliveries -- or production -- increased 42 percent despite the drought and other problems.

Furthermore, the delivery of certain products -- such as pork, lamb, and goat meat -- increased 423 percent. These are not big figures but, considering that the previous amounts were insufficient, really... [changes thought] the deliveries increased 423 percent once the free peasants markets were abolished. The problem with the free peasants markets was that many products which should have been delivered to the collection/distribution centers were no longer being delivered. The products were sold at incredibly high prices. That is the truth. The peasants were deprived... [corrects himself] were given fertilizers and other things, and what should have been used for the sugar cane was used for something else or sold. That is one of the setbacks in this mechanism. The products were not delivered to the collection/distribution centers; they were sold in the free markets, sold through distributors, etc.

This is one of the results of that second meeting. There were other changes, meditated for some time, in the collection system. A national enterprise was created. The agricultural sector was given the means to cover all the areas. Since this had never been done before, we created the Agriculture and Sugar Ministries -- as you well know -- to handle the peasant sector's needs. Likewise, the agricultural and agro-industrial cooperation councils were also created. In short, a series of measures were implemented and you have stated your satisfaction during this congress. I truly believe we are doing the correct thing. I think it was necessary to recall a few historical facts to understand, to be clearly aware of what we do and what we do not do; of what we should do and what we should not do. I said the second meeting was historic, but this seventh congress is also historic. [applause]

We have begun a new era in the peasant sector. The second meeting resulted in decisions concerning construction materials -- to begin their distribution in 1986 and increase the amounts of material for the construction of houses in the agricultural production cooperatives. We really felt satisfied to hear the comrade from Holguin. She said during the cooperative members' meeting that she had previously received a certain amount of cement bags, and added that she now received several tons. Measures were taken and mechanisms put in place to fulfill needs and solve problems. The people were told it was necessary to increase the production of materials, and the production increased. There are plans to build a minimum of 7,000 houses each year for the cooperative sector -- sugarcane cooperatives and others. There are also plans, as you well know, to build houses for agricultural workers -- who will not be forgotten. They will also have prefabricated houses, whenever possible, to avoid big differences between the agricultural workers and peasants. [applause] Let me tell you, this congress was prepared very well.

We had a serious problem. Comrade Pepe had health problems. Fortunately, they were not irreversible or fatal problems, but he had trouble with his voice, his throat, and was getting worse. He had to undergo surgery and a long rehabilitation period. We came to the conclusion that it was impossible for him to preside over all these tasks and continue with his responsibilities as ANAP president. This is not the case with his political responsibilities and his responsibilities in the party as alternate member of the Politburo. He will go on with all those tasks. But it was very difficult to organize the congress without Comrade Pepe Ramirez. Despite that, excellent work was done. It was noted that Comrade Lugo [new ANAP President Orlando Lugo Fonte] was of peasant origin, of truly peasant origin. He won great prestige [applause] great prestige as party leader in Pinar del Rio Province, a province with many peasants. The party proposed he chair the congress' organizing committee and he was supported. The committee worked very hard, it held many meetings. We got to the congress with many answers to many problems. Very broad information was collected about everything of concern to peasants in every area, in every area. [repeats himself] Nothing was forgotten. They were analyzed, decisions were made regarding many matters and we came to the congress with many of those problems solved. That is the advantage of being well-prepared for an event of this kind. All those problems are being worked on.

During the congress we had the opportunity to discuss fundamental problems of every kind. The congress was not only well prepared but we had an excellent congress. Hours flew without anyone noticing. We have had two big events recently. The youth congress, which impressed our entire population when they saw the new generation, our relay full of life, energy, principles, revolutionary ideas, with an impressive level of cultural and political education.

Those of us who have attended the congress were greatly impressed by this event because of its seriousness and especially because of the spirit noted during this congress. We could also see here all the culture, all the progress made by our peasant masses, their enormous political development, their firmness, honesty, seriousness. Not a demagogic, silly word was heard during the entire congress. Scores of delegates spoke and all of them impressed us. They were men of extensive experience, truly wise men, masters of agriculture. They are brilliant organizers. Numerous feats in the organizational and productive field were explained here. There were not few feats in this area, there were many. If this congress had been extended for many days, who knows how many other examples would have come up. This made us very confident, very confident [repeats himself] regarding everything we are attempting to do. It really has to be said that this congress shows that the cooperative movement has placed itself at the vanguard of our peasants. [applause] It has been placed at the vanguard of the peasant movement. It is already a dominant, prevailing force that expresses itself in thousands of ways.

Yesterday we discovered the power of a cooperative when the president of the 26 de Julio cooperative, from Banes, if I remember correctly, from the arid, dry territory, was explaining his experience, how he had increased sugarcane yields with dry farming -- because they do not even have a well -- from 56 to 80 or some 92 arrobas. [Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 18 May in a broadcast of Fidel Castro's speech says "from 56,000 to some 80,000 or 92,000 arrobas"] He explained how the cooperative with dry farming in one of the areas with least rain in the country, during a dry period -- our last few years have been dry years, especially the last 2 -- increased sugarcane yields to over 90 arrobas. [Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 18 May 87 in a broadcast of Fidel Castro's speech says "yields to over 90,000 arrobas"] Of course, cooperative members from Havana and other regions also talked about how they have increased the yield to 100,000 and over 100,000 in dry lands. But I was particularly impressed with the cooperative that achieved those successes, its social progress, the construction they undertook, doctor houses, stores, the problems they solved and the spirit with which they solved them.

We were really interested in the cooperative that followed the idea which began in the capital and has become quite popular nowadays concerning the microbrigades. The cooperative members thought they could use the principle and build the cooperative houses with extra work. Consequently, all the cooperative members pledged to work one additional hour every day. This way 16 men were free to build the houses. This is the advantage of a principle and a good experience.

Imagine what the agricultural production cooperatives can build with extra work, following the principle of the microbrigades. There is no need to go looking for people from the cities or another place to build the houses. Likewise, there would be no need to make any additional efforts during peak harvest days. The other brigades — not the microbrigades — can help during the periods when there is an excess of manpower. They can thus be able to carry out the social development programs in the countryside. They can help build health centers, schools, schoolrooms, child care centers — many things. We have ascertained the power of a cooperative, the capacity to solve difficult problems. Isolated peasants would never have the capacity to solve these problems. The workers proved during many harvests — coffee, sugarcane, and many others — that agricultural production by hectare could be considerably increased. [Castro clears his throat] It is true that outstanding cooperatives attended the event, but this proves how much can be achieved — this is the basic thing — what can be achieved and what we must achieve in the agricultural sector to develop the cooperative movement, among other things. All the possible solutions to the problems were also proved.

We have also ascertained that the cooperative movement has been strengthened by the second meeting. The information is there to prove it. More than 650 caballerias were brought under the agricultural production cooperatives during 1986, and almost 700 have been added from January to April 1987 — that's 4 months. More land became part of the agricultural production cooperatives in these 4 months than in all of 1986. Many delegates discussed here the efforts made and measures taken to create new cooperatives. The movement should be developed, but this does not mean we have to work hastily. We should work at a quicker pace because we are trying to emerge from a stalemate, but we must develop the movement with care and establish very solid foundations. We would achieve nothing by working hastily and making mistakes. Once we abolish the factors that hindered the movement, such as the free peasants market, once we adopt measures approved during the second meeting to counter the illegal actions taken concerning the land, the various partnerships which arose in the countryside, the different types of parasitism, the people who abandoned the land, the illegal takeovers, etc. — all this, all those negative factors, all those bad habits logically hinder the cooperative movement.

The cooperative movement must be developed in the near future. This involves not only work but also organization. The production cooperatives will get better attention with the new structures; however, the credit and services cooperatives will also be included. Let us not forget the credit and services agricultural production sector. The party and the state organizations in charge of the agriculture sector must necessarily pay more attention to the credit and services cooperatives. We cannot concentrate on the agricultural and livestock production cooperatives and neglect the credit and services cooperatives. We must continue to work with them, seeing to their needs, and helping them — while we develop the land integration process and the agricultural and livestock production cooperatives. This is very important.

We must not forget a single peasant. [Castro coughs] We must not neglect a single peasant; we must not neglect a single hectare of land. We must follow up some of the problems. [Castro coughs] For example, we discussed the apparent duality in two collection-distribution centers, and we will continue to analyze that. We explained the role of the selected fruits enterprise, which is in charge of specific functions that cannot be carried out by the national collection-distribution centers enterprise. These are two national enterprises but one handles the bulk amounts. We will seek formulas to avoid contradictions.

Some ideas came up. The possibility of only one of them collecting when the product is plentiful; for plan overfulfillment to be paid at a deferred price. That is, the possibility that when some products are plentiful the collection enterprise itself pays the differential price for true overfulfillment of plans. Distinguishing between one kind of product and another. Creating conditions that will ensure that these two enterprises will cooperate and comply with their functions. We will continue to ponder this in order to make that collection system more perfect, since it will be necessary for the parallel markets to keep operating. The parallel markets not only help to distribute certain products that exist in only limited quantities and can only be distributed on the basis of parallel market prices; they also are important sources of income for the state. The existence of this market requires a specialized organ that will supply it with agricultural produce -- of course, this market is not supplied only with Cuban products but also imported agricultural products. Let us try to avoid the pitfalls of any kind of contradiction between those two enterprises.

We discussed retirement at length, as well as problems that arose, the trends that developed and which made disbursements in the retirement system to be higher than the income. Many spoke of the importance of the institution and the possible advisability of increasing contributions to the system for those purposes. I explained that, anyway, since there are cooperatives with higher income and others with lower income, the contributions would have to be very high to meet expenditures.

One has to consider that many years have passed since the triumph of the revolution, that a lot of young people went to work in other fields, and that the average age of peasants went up. I explained that the solution may be to increase the contribution up to a point and cover the rest with state contributions so that institution can be consolidated,

We also explained that we should not mistake the member who joins a cooperative for the purpose of getting his pension. We talked yesterday about the possibility of a separate state fund to take care of those peasants who cannot work the land. In that case, they could join cooperatives and contribute to the unification of the land [compactacion] or to state enterprises where that land is needed. That could be a solution but like all solutions it has to be considered carefully and applied wisely. If it is not done carefully it can turn into a system to retire anyone who reaches a certain age. That is not the objective. We have to link this fund to agricultural development, to those cases in which it is clearly and concretely applicable to pay retirement in order to incorporate land into cooperatives or state enterprises.

That is why it is so important to study at what level a decision of that kind must be made to avoid mistakes, to keep the fund from turning into a public charity institution. We will also have to consider what to do with a peasant who wants to retire; if he has relatives in the city and wants to go with them; if he wants to stay in the countryside, what attention he can be given through the same cooperative if he continues to live there; what possibilities he has of being self-sufficient; in sum, those things have to be analyzed, considered, and then the best decision taken. We have been thinking about formulas so that retirement does not become a system to incorporate land or to solve certain kinds of social problems. I believe that was very clear.

Measures have been taken regarding housing, interests that have to be paid for the housing, the extension of payment terms. We talked about repairs. It was very clear that an excessive centralization system was in force in the use of parts and in engine repairs. I believe that we have to make a realistic attempt to decentralize as much as possible, to deliver parts to the cooperative repair shops as soon as possible. One has to consider that cooperatives will have more and more trained personnel, better repair shops and equipment, and will be able to make many of the repairs. One has to keep in mind that agriculture was divided into sugarcane and non-sugarcane agriculture. Repair shops that used to exist in the entire country were split up. Now an engine from Guantanamo may have to be delivered to Matanzas or one from Pinar del Rio to Holguin.

There may be some complaints later, perhaps because an engine was sent for repairs and the shop sent back a different one, or the repairs are not complete, or there is some sort of failure. Therefore, it will be better if the cooperatives are given the responsibility of repairing their own machinery, provided they are given the facilities for this. This way, only what seems to have no possible solution will be sent to the main repair shops, or when sophisticated equipment and specialized personnel are needed for the job. This was clearly established. The importance of the technical personnel who will join the cooperatives was emphasized. We will have to work in coordination with the higher education centers to place technicians -- particularly those who will graduate in the near future and those with a broader profile later on -- among the cooperatives, when it is clearly ascertained that an agronomist with experience in harvests, soil, machinery, and irrigation systems is needed for those tasks. It was proved here that young people who have good technical training and who work with the cooperative members will learn much and will learn soon.

We also talked about the development of the family doctor. We saw some reports that indicate that there are more than 300 family doctors in rural areas -- most of them are in the mountain areas, of course. There are now more than 300 doctors in the mountain areas and more than 200 doctors will join the program this year. We might say that all the mountains in the east will be covered by the family doctor system by the end of 1987. The mountains will be covered. [repeats himself] [applause] There are now 40 cooperatives that have a family doctor, and the whole country, all the cities, the whole countryside will have a family doctor within 10 years, because 1,500 doctors join the system every year. Some 2,000 family doctors will join the system every year by 1998. Let me tell you, no other country in the world has that institution, that direct service for the population. You can imagine our country when 20,000 family doctors render their services in the cities and the countryside. Thousands of them will go to the countryside, we hope they will join the cooperatives. The ideal thing would be an organized population with all their services and family doctor.

I believe that the infant mortality rate -- which stands at 13.6 percent -- might go below 10 percent in 5 years with this and other programs. The programs include cardiovascular surgery, which has saved many lives, for children with congenital heart defects; prenatal genetic programs that will allow the interruption of an early-stage pregnancy in case of any defect, not only cardiac defects; and improved services, especially prenatal services in the maternity-children's hospitals. We believe this goal will be attained in approximately 5 years; I don't think we will need more than that. We won't have to wait until all the country is covered by the family doctor program; we will probably have to cover only half of the country, meaning half of the doctors we will need -- because we give priority to the countryside, the regions that have more problems -- to attain this goal.

I firmly believe in our health program, which includes the family doctor; the people's access to dispensaries; special medical attention for all respiratory cases, cardiac cases, etc.; increased experience as general practitioners among doctors; programs to counter sedentary living, obesity, and smoking. [laughter] Yes, even if this costs the socialist state hundreds of millions of pesos because, and I repeat, the socialist state does not only exist only to reap profits; it is not commercial or a mercantile institution; it cannot seek resources and revenues by poisoning the population and encouraging the consumption of cigars. This is a clear example of what the socialist state represents. Cigars and tobacco represent one of the major sources of income but a large-scale campaign is nevertheless underway to decrease tobacco consumption. We have made progress and we expect to win the battle to reduce the consumption of tobacco to a minimum, even if it represents the loss of hundreds of millions of pesos in revenues. We will have to seek other sources, invent other things, produce other types of goods -- including more fruits, vegetables, and industrial items -- so that the money not spent on cigars can be spent on other things. Of course, this implies work and effort, but that is what socialism is all about. That is the role of the party, the leading organizations, and the socialist state. They must seek the solution: eliminate what represents hundreds of millions in revenues and seek other sources of income. We know that our tobacco-producing peasants will not lose money. We will export as long as we have clients because the world campaign to stop smoking is not our responsibility; that is the responsibility of the WHO and other states. Nevertheless, we support the campaign. Cuba unhesitatingly supported the campaign started in Geneva to stop smoking. [applause] We must support the WHO's principles and campaign but we will continue to sell cigars as long as anyone wants to buy them -- because we do not force anyone to stop smoking and we have not issued a law to ban smoking -- and we will continue to export them as long as we have clients.

However, we know very well that if one day the area used for harvesting tobacco is reduced as a result of this policy we will produce grain, vegetables, food. All that land which is fertile land, and the irrigation systems we have will be used to produce other things. Yesterday remarks were made regarding the possibility of planting pineapple in the acid soil of the northern part of the province. There are clients for all the pineapples that can be produced and they can be sold at a good price, maybe at a better price than tobacco because the people have money and can pay for pineapples and summer vegetables. We saw clearly yesterday that even if the time comes when tobacco planting has to be cut back, there are still crops that are more profitable than tobacco. Our peasants will not suffer a bit with this campaign and our people will benefit.

So, I was going to tell you that with all these efforts, in 10 more years, life expectancy will exceed 80 years. When the revolution triumphed it was over 50, now it is 74, and I hope that in 10 more years we will be able to say that our life expectancy exceeds 80. [applause]

At that time we will have all kinds of retirees, all kinds of retirees. [repeats himself] Do you know what that means? The first conclusion is that the land has to produce more, that farm productivity has to increase, and work productivity has to increase in the countryside and the city because the same thing will happen. Each time there will be a lower percentage of workers. Laborers, workers, farmers, industrial workers, and material good producers. In other words, a proportionately larger number of workers in the material sphere will have to produce for a proportionately larger number of people who will be out of the material production sphere. That is, each man between the ages of 20 and 50 will have to produce more, each man and woman, because there will be more men and women past 55 and 60. At first we had to build many child care centers. [laughter] We are still building them. I hope you know that Havana microbrigades are going to build 50 child care centers this year, 50. In 1 more year needs will be met. Some 19,000 applications were filed because more and more women have joined the work force, women with a high level of technical skills. They are also building polyclinics, special schools, etc. Microbrigades will later have to build homes and centers for grandparents. We are looking for practical institutions. They can walk to the centers and meet others their age; they can go home for lunch and return to the centers. At grandparent homes -- if I remember correctly, we have inaugurated some in other places -- the elderly go in the morning and return at night because they have no one to take care of them at home but they can sleep with relatives at home. They have to walk, they make a big effort, but doctors recommend walking; it is part of the exercise program. The number of institutions will have to grow for those people who do not have relatives and do not have any other choice than to live there. So in coming years, we will have to build more institutions for grandparents, and aunts and uncles, and even great-grandparents [laughter] because as the life expectancy is extended ... [changes thought] All this is the result of the work of the revolution, of the programs of the revolution, which have brought out an enormous wealth of humane feelings. That is seen everywhere; it is not that old and grotesque society where we could find a barefoot kid on the streets begging, deprived of an education, of medical services, where we could find beggars. Which of those highly developed societies, those highly developed capitalist cities can say they do not have beggars, or barefoot kids? They have thousands and sometimes millions of people sleeping on the streets because they do not have shelter. Which can say their society is free of gambling as our society is, and which can say it is free of vice, free of prostitution, or free of drugs? No, they cannot say that, or that they are free of illiterates, that they don't have a child without a school or a teacher even if he lives in Pico Turquino. The case of the teacher who was paid a salary by the state for teaching her four children is well known. Look to what extreme services have been provided, to what extremes? A salary is paid to a mother, who is a teacher and lives in the countryside, for teaching her four children.

What developed country can claim it has a doctor where he is needed -- the factory, the school, the neighborhood; or that its mountain areas are covered by the family doctor system; or that its people -- children, adults, and the elderly -- are safe against disease? The services to our people improve each year because we work hard. This way the people rest assured that all their children will be able to attend school and study what they want, based on their dedication and talents. Well, no other nation can claim that all its citizens are offered this security. They have reached a dead end on this.

The revolution has attained all this and has increased life expectancy, meaning a healthy life. We do not want people who live many years, but people who live well, feel well, feel healthy, feel well attended, feel secure, and feel dignified. The revolution has made all this possible, but it involves a lot of effort and work. We will accomplish even more provided we improve our work; provided that our teachers, doctors, health technicians, workers, industrial workers, and peasants improve their work. Let us bear in mind that the work is not carried out so that one person can become rich; the work is carried out for the people's benefit. Everything that we do correctly and becomes useful will not only benefit whoever does it but everyone else as well.

My attention was drawn yesterday by the strength [Castro clears throat] and dignity with which some delegates discussed the exploitation of man; the conviction and firmness with which they stated that any form of man's exploitation by man is inadmissible [applause]; and the strength with which they criticized certain bad habits and vices that still prevail among our peasants. The people have moral, ethical and revolutionary principles -- and those principles are now an inseparable part of everyone's spirit. We have emerged from the past, the darkness, and the injustice in which the Cubans lived for centuries, in which the citizens of the world lived for millennia.

We have attained an equal society, a just society, a truly free society for the first time in history. Time has not passed in vain, time has taught us a lot, and this is reflected in our fellow citizens' attitude, national solidarity, and spirit of internationalist solidarity. This is proven by our teachers, doctors, technicians, and soldiers. This has been proven by our people throughout these difficult years of threats and danger, when our people, workers, peasants, and students mobilized, organized, and prepared themselves to the last man -- to defend the homeland, make it strong and invincible, and protect it from aggression. The mere fact that we have become strong discouraged our enemies, and continues to discourage and restrain them.

We have achieved progress in many fields. Veritable feats were carried out in one field: our patriotism and the people's readiness to defend our country. The reward for those efforts is no small reward; the reward is peace. [applause] The reward is the homeland's integrity and security. A large amount of resources -- enormous amounts of material, human, and financial resources -- were assigned to this task. All were part of the efforts made by our country. We also do whatever is necessary nowadays. We have tried to correct our mistakes and struggle against negative tendencies. We felt quite satisfied to hear your views about the positive things we have done over the past year. We will also meet with the management sector in a few weeks -- the party, labor, and youth secretaries -- to analyze what has been achieved during the past year in the struggle to correct mistakes and counter negative tendencies. We must analyze the progress achieved and determine what must be done in future years.

I believe we are doing the right thing, but you can't grow careless when doing the right thing or certain things will happen -- like the man who is driving along the road at a certain speed and suddenly closes his eyes, or falls asleep, or turns to talk with whoever sits beside him. We must remain alert and watch the road ahead. Problems will not be solved overnight. Everything takes time and, above all, a constant watchfulness. We must never rest on our laurels. You who are peasants know the saying: Keep on your toes or you will be left behind. I believe that this has been a difficult year for our country. We face a difficult situation.

I do not want to repeat the reasons, the difficulties we have had to overcome, the need to reduce convertible area imports in half, practically to a third of what was imported in 1984. I believe this is also encouraging us to save, to become aware of the need to use material and human resources better in every area. This is what I call the virtues that appear during the lean years. I believe we are learning to save our resources much more. We are advancing despite all these difficulties and we are solving problems. We have had to make some sacrifices but they have not been big. The most important thing is that we have not sacrificed development.

We have worked on the oil refinery, nuclear power plants, big nickel plants, mechanical and power industry plants, etc. We are going to operate our textile installations at maximum capacity. We have built big installations for which we already have labor force and raw material. We will work in the city and the countryside.

I believe our countryside has fantastic potential to continue changing, to continue being revolutionized. There are programs such as the one to promote work on the mountains, the recovery of tobacco production, and the development of the mountain areas. We are recovering the will to develop water work projects which had been lost some years ago. Some dams were planned to be started today and completed in 20 years, 20 years putting cement, stone, bricks [words indistinct] without any results. All that is being corrected by looking at construction as a continuous production process. Big dams will be built in 2 to 3 years as the irrigation systems were once built. Medium-sized dams and micro-dams will be built. We will try to expand resources in the rest of the country as we are doing in Vinales and other places. We have done this in Pinar de Rio where the will to develop water works projects has returned, efforts are being made to recover it in the eastern provinces, and I believe the will to develop water work projects will be completely reestablished in full, with the right ideas. I hope not a single creek, a single irrigation resource goes unused. We can understand even better the need to use those water resource goes unused. We can understand even better the need to use those water resources during these dry years. We hope that wherever there is that kind of resource, we use it.

We hope that housing programs continue to make strides, that we build hundreds of modern communities in our countryside. That simultaneously with the cooperative development we continue to build new towns with the most dignified living conditions for our peasants. We hope that some day this work will be simplified, the work of collecting, contracting, arranging; that one day the collections centers are reduced to a few thousand, 2,000 or 3,000 at the most and that supplies are taken to those 2,000 or 3,000 places and all kinds of resources. We hope all that will be simplified in the future so that we can say we have culminated the revolution in our countryside and we have done it the right way, by persuasion and winning over the peasants.

We also hope to continue developing the electrification of our countryside. I want you to know that from now to 1990, 1 million people from rural areas will have electricity especially in the eastern provinces. There is a program to install electric lines, transformers, and increase the country's electricity levels for as many as 90 percent of family units, as many as 90 percent. [applause] The electrification of the countryside will progress rapidly. Of course we will not be able to take electricity to isolated places, to all the small towns, villages, and communities in the plains and the mountains. We have taken electric power plants to over 500 places in the mountains with 3 or 4 hours of service as part of a program which was created. I do not know if the people in the countryside are listening to this closing ceremony today but the power plants are turned on at 7 and shut down at 11. We believe that with these electrification programs many of these places that have electric power plants today will be able to draw electricity from the national system and will be able to have electricity 24 hours a day.

Even if you have electricity for 4 hours that is some progress. This allows the people to watch television in the community center. Others have electricity during the evening -- perhaps not enough to have an iron, refrigerator, mixer, and other things because the capacity is limited -- but, I repeat, an additional 1 million people will have electricity 24 hours a day within 4 years; that is, an additional 1 million people who live in the countryside. In other words, workers and peasants -- 1 million [applause]. We know that less electricity is available in the eastern regions and our main efforts are being made there. We have already organized the brigades that will work on the lines. We have a program to purchase or produce the transformers we need to meet our goal and make even bigger efforts in 1988, 1989, and 1990. This will be another victory that the revolution will achieve in a short time. As I said, once the electric system expands, you will be able to have all those famous electric appliances. We heard many delegates explain that they had everything -- television, refrigerator, washing machine, all that. We will have electricity; and when the electronuclear plants begin operations, we will even cook with electricity. We will be able to cook with electricity whenever we run out of gas or kerosene.

We dream about all these changes in the countryside. Time goes by but many of us can clearly recall how people used to live in the countryside, and we compare it with life in the countryside today. Above all, we are pleased to think of what the countryside, the lowlands, and the mountains will become -- full of totally automated agricultural enterprises, cooperatives, and modern communities. This will become a reality in the near future. Perhaps most of the goals will be attained by the end of this century, most of the goals. I will not say that all the goals will be achieved because we only have 13 years left. If we work well we can make a lot of progress. We have worked well during the last year and we have achieved a great deal.

Let us pledge to work well, in the best possible way, during the next 13 years, and we will see how many changes are achieved in the countryside, how much is produced in the countryside in a socialist way -- not a capitalist way. This way the workers who supply our shoes, clothes, medicine, transportation, cement, electricity, iron rods and all the articles needed to improve our living conditions will receive all they want from the countryside in adequate amounts. They should not lack anything, not even a small herb which you can produce as a complement to the big production. We will then have a problem: What will we call the ANAP? I don't know if you have thought about this but, since I believe in all the things that I talk about as I believed in other things that are now a reality, I wonder what we will call the ANAP. It will no longer be the National Association of Small Farmers, either in the size of the land or its installations. We will solve the problem then, and we will perhaps call it the ANAC or another name. You can even organize a contest for this. I said this name for starters. It could be called the National Association of Peasants...how is that? No, National Association of Cooperative Workers. [applause] That is a dialectic problem that must be discussed at the eighth congress, or perhaps at the ninth congress. Anyway, you will have to solve the problem before the end of the century. This is the result of progress. See how we can't get used to names -- not even names -- because everything changes.

To conclude, Comrades, I reaffirm our emotion, satisfaction, and enthusiasm over the congress. We feel optimistic and happy, and we are fully confident that we will attain our goals. Fatherland or death! We shall win! [applause]

RODRIGUEZ DISCUSSES U.S. AT YOUTH SEMINAR

FL281915 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 May 87

[Report by Virginia Maria Pineiro]

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo, today gave a special lecture on international politics during the seminar for first and second UJC [Union of Young Communists] secretaries at the Julio Antonio Mella School.

Carlos Rafael began his lecture by stating that the Fifth UJC Congress had proved that the process of following our leaders' steps has already begun. He emphasized that young people's enthusiasm is deeper because of their political strength. He added: The congress also showed us what makes our youths feel greater satisfaction.

Carlos Rafael discussed international issues and explained how Ronald Reagan's credibility had dwindled. He emphasized that the Reagan administration had come to a dead end because it had violated U.S. laws and customs, among other things. He said everything seems to indicate that the Republicans and Democrats who do not support Reagan are trying to prevent the President from having to step down because this would bring international discredit to the country. However, the situation is so critical for the President, though everyone is trying to prevent this from happening, it could be unavoidable in the long run.

Carlos Rafael asserted: Anyway, this does not mean we should harbor any hopes, because this would not lead to great changes in the United States, only minor ones. We must not misinterpret the nature of changes caused by the Reagagate scandal. Today's activities also included a dialogue between Rosa Elena Simeon, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, and the people who attended the meeting. They discussed scientific-technical activities and their importance for the country's development.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

PA281925 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 May 87

["Viewpoint" commentary read by Angel Hernandez]

[Text] The current U.S. Government has made it clear it supports a very reactionary foreign policy. Generally speaking, this line of thought can be summed up by a very aggressive position, namely, the U.S. intention to play, at any costs, the role of international gendarme and its simplification of world issues by reducing them to the formula of an alleged East-West confrontation.

It is well known that, in his first election campaign, Ronald Reagan liked to attack what he described as the weak foreign policy of Jimmy Carter, who was president at the time. Also, it is well known that his diatribes were charged with chauvinism aimed at instilling an image of being a chosen people of great power in the average U.S. citizen. At the time, many recalcitrant Republicans described Reagan as the great prophet arrived from the American West to restore the nation's faith.

The application of this formula had to take the form of encouraging anticommunism. For this a broad propaganda program against the alleged Red threat was initiated. In this way, everything bad for the new administration was identified with the presumed subversive activities of the Soviet Union. The world's political problems were reduced to the simplistic formula of an East-West confrontation. The aggression against Grenada in 1983, the dirty war against Nicaragua, the increased nuclear arms race, and the boundless increase of the U.S. military presence in the planet's sore spots are projected, for the public's sake, as the U.S. need not yield before the communists and stand as the presumed advocate of the democratic and Christian values that inspire the West.

For some time, the formula worked; many Americans let themselves be carried away with their euphoria of being part of a great nation. This euphoria originated in the White House and continued until the truth regarding foreign policy shone forth. Domestically, meanwhile, this line of action began to have negative repercussions on the country's economic and social spheres. Irangate, where the current investigation leads directly to the White House as the main party involved, shows the fallacy of Reagan and his followers and has resulted in a decrease of the blind support that many offered the former actor when he assumed office as president.

Meanwhile, the large war expenditures in which Washington gets tangled are defrayed in part with cuts in the sums earmarked for social and job-fostering programs. This has negative effects on the population. With reason, it has been said, during Reagan's term the rich have become richer and the poor have become destitute. This, simply and directly, is the result of what we have just said. Time changes nothing for the current U.S. Administration. The increased unpopularity of the president and his followers indicates that the farce of great communicator and prophet is but dust in the wind. Again, the truly aggressive and retrograde purpose of those who, with siren's songs and lies upon lies, want to impose their lowly designs on the rest of their fellow countrymen and the world has again been revealed.

COSTA RICA'S 'CONNECTION' WITH U.S. VIEWED

PA282144 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 May 87

["What The Press Has To Say" feature by Maruja Garcia and Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] [Hernandez] Journalist Orlando Oramas Leon has written an article for GRANMA with the title: The Costa Rican Connection. It is a topic that says a lot about the complicity of the Costa Rican authorities with the U.S. officials against Nicaragua. Dear friends, we will read this article to you today, and we hope you will find it interesting.

[Garcia] While the U.S. Congress is conducting hearings on the Irangate scandal at the capitol, in San Jose, Costa Rica, the two main political organizations of that country are attacking one another with the recently disclosed Costa Rican connection, a supply network for the contras.

[Hernandez] The Social Christian Unity Party [PUSC] reported that Monge administration officials received funds from the U.S. arms sale to Iran. In the meantime, deputies of the ruling National Liberation Party accused PUSC leader Rafael Angel Calderon of also receiving dirty money from the White House during the last presidential campaign, in which he was defeated by the current president.

[Garcia] Everything started when the Tower Commission disclosed that there was an airstrip in northern Costa Rica which had been built by a CIA enterprise. According to the report, flights to supply contra forces left from this airstrip. The proclaimed and much-publicized Costa Rican neutrality went down the drain, especially when Monge admitted that the construction of the airstrip had been approved at the request of U.S. officials.

[Hernandez] Oramas Leon then goes on to say that the Llano Grande airport, located only 17 km from the border with Nicaragua, was owned by a company registered in Panama: The Uvall Research Co., which was in charge of remodelling and enlarging the airstrip. This corporation is a CIA front organization, linked to secret accounts that were supervised by Oliver North and Richard Secord.

[Garcia] According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Uvall and other companies serve as a front to pay the expenses of contra leaders. The Llano Grande airstrip was used during the last few months of the Luis Alberto Monge administration. At least 800 tons of weapons and ammunition, worth more than \$5 million, were sent to the Nicaraguan mercenaries from that airstrip.

[Hernandez] The deliveries were coordinated by the CIA station in San Jose with the key participation of Yankee Ambassador Lewis Tambs. THE MIAMI HERALD stressed that Tambs, along with the Yankee ambassador in Portugal, Frank Shakespeare, worked with Oliver North to weave the secret net of supplies to the contras at a time when Congress banned it.

[Garcia] During the 17 months that he was in his post, Tambs used his diplomatic judgment to get Costa Rica to participate in the network to support the Nicaraguan contras. Just like the former Yankee ambassador, Tomas Castillo, the CIA station chief in San Jose, was replaced after it was disclosed they were involved in the Iran-contra. The CIA team in Costa Rica was in charge of coordinating with the Somozists who resided in that country, the pickup points for the air shipments that were sent to the mercenaries of the so-called Southern Front.

[Hernandez] GRANMA adds that another U.S. mercenary, John Hull, a CIA agent, became the visible head of the drug trafficking-contra relation. Hull has a farm in northern Costa Rica where there is a landing strip used as a layover point for drugs enroute to the United States and the unloading of arms and ammunition for the Somozists.

[Garcia] On 23 April 1986, a meeting was held at the White House to determine the Costa Rican participation in the supply network for the contras in view of the change of government that was about to occur in that country. At that meeting, guidelines were established on how to continue using Costa Rican territory to support the Somozists after President Oscar Arias assumed office.

[Hernandez] GRANMA notes that the supply network continued operating without Arias' approval. At his inauguration, Arias advocated the neutrality of his administration in the Central American conflict. Arias has placed some restrictions on the mercenary organizations operating in Costa Rica. However, it is a fact the contras continue operating from Costa Rican territory from which they attack Nicaragua.

[Garcia] The dirty details of the Iran-contragate have marred the Costa Rican image and proven that Nicaraguan's charge at the ICJ is just. According to this charge, San Jose is blamed for its complicity with the aggression started by Washington to overthrow the Sandinist revolution. Beyond the domestic contradictions between the two main Costa Rican parties, the Irangate disclosures show the fragility of that country's neutrality and its submission to Yankee pressures against Nicaragua.

RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES CEMA SECRETARY SYCHEV

FL271251 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Vyacheslav Sychev, secretary of CEMA, who visited our country as part of his tour of Latin America. Rodriguez gave a positive assessment of the official contact, because of the importance for Cuba of the socialist states' contribution to communication with Latin America.

CEMA MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MEETING HELD IN SANTIAGO

FL270143 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] The delegates to the 23d meeting of CEMA representatives of biomedical and clinical medical equipment being held in Santiago de Cuba, have visited the (Retomed) medical equipment factory under construction in that city. During the tour, they learned about the progress of the project under construction and about the industrial center's production capabilities. The factory will be 70,000 square meters and when it is fully operational it will contribute goods valued at 32 million pesos a year.

PCC OFFICIALS ATTEND CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CONGRESS

FL280116 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Armando Hart, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Politburo and culture minister, participated as a guest during the 3d day of work of the Christian Conference for Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean being held at the Palace of Conventions. During the morning session, the prestigious theologian Frei Beto delivered a lecture called "Liberation and Peace; a Gospel Requirement." He referred to peace as the fruit of justice and a great challenge for the liberated future.

Among the activities related to the conference was the presentation of the book "Guillermo Sardinias: the Commander Priest" by Yolanda Portuondo. The book is a biography based on testimonies. Jesus Montane, member of the PCC Central Committee was presented during the ceremony. People gathered at the Palace of Conventions were able to listen to those who had the chance to work with or admire Father Sardinias.

[Begin PCC Central Committee Member Jorge Enrique Mendoza] He loved poor people, was a true Christian, reader of Jose Marti's work, and was familiar with the philosophy of our Jose Marti who said: When you are born poor and are honest there is no time to seek wealth. Father Sardinias devoted all his life and efforts, and all the vigor his body had, to the Christian faith. He worked for the double ministry of the church, in which he sincerely believed, and struggled on behalf of the poor. [applause] [end recording]

FOREIGN DELEGATIONS MEET AT CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

PA271344 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 May 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Delegations from most area countries and guests from other continents have been participating in Havana since Sunday in the third study congress and plenary assembly of the Christian Conference for Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean. Rooted in its faith in Christ, the Christian Conference for Peace began in Europe after World War II, opposing the arms buildup and the cold war unleashed by imperialist powers, mainly the United States, which harass the socialist sector and interfere in the struggle for freedom. However, the Christian movement realized from the start the struggle for peace is inseparable from the struggle for social justice. This truth gained force with increasingly greater participation in the organization by Third World religious people, particularly those of Latin America after the emergence of liberation theology.

In fact, prominent theologians such as (Frei Beto), Raul Vidales, Sergio Arce, and (Ruben Gri) are participating in the congress in the Cuban capital. They keynote speech, entitled Liberation and Peace: Demand of the Gospel, will be delivered by a Brazilian Dominican.

The explosive situation generated by U.S. imperialist meddling and the vast exploitation of women on our continent will be discussed during the meeting. Undoubtedly, other anguishing problems for our people -- unemployment, the high cost of living, foreign debt, unhealthy conditions, lack of educational opportunities, and current repression -- will also be discussed.

The committed Christians of Latin America -- who express themselves through liberation theology, grassroots ecclesiastical community churches and a preference for the poor -- have realized that institutionalized social injustices on our continent are part of a sinful situation against which we must fight to achieve a structural change to end dependence and oppression.

Several days ago, Mexican theologian Raul Vidales said that our struggle is not only against the arms race, but also for a day-to-day revolution to ensure equal rights for women, blacks, Indians, and children.

Nearly 5 centuries ago, European colonizers took advantage of the Gospel by plundering and stealing our resources. Later, foreign bosses and local exploiters used the Bible to lull the people into docile obedience.

Today, as liberation theologians are pointing out, we have seized from the wealthy exploiters the Gospel as our weapon in the struggle for social freedom and justice.

MALMIERCA BEGINS TALKS WITH IRANIAN OFFICIALS

FL280146 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today began official talks in Tehran with Iranian authorities. This is part of a tour through nonaligned countries. Malmierca arrived in Tehran this morning from Algeria in a first stage of a tour that will also include Iraq, where he will go Friday [29 May] after he ends his visit in Teheran.

Explores Cooperation

FL282010 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1414 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has met in Tehran with Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and Agriculture and Rural Development Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali. The Cuban foreign minister had met earlier with his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, to discuss their respective countries' position concerning the Persian Gulf and Central America. Malmierca and Velayati also discussed the upcoming nonaligned meeting, which will be held in Pyongyang, capital of the DPRK, to analyze South-South cooperation.

Malmierca, who will conclude his visit to Iran tomorrow, and Velayati agreed that experts from their two countries will examine their suggestions for the future expansion of Cuban-Iranian cooperation.

RELEASE OF PANAMANIAN HELD SINCE 1959 IMMINENT

PA290414 Paris AFP in Spanish 0330 GMT 29 May 87

[Text] Havana, 28 May (AFP) — The Cuban Government today, on a request from Panamanian National Guard [as received] commander General Manuel A. Noriega, decided to release Roberto Martin Perez, one of the political prisoners with the most lengthy stay in a Cuban prison — since 1959.

A Panamanian mission arrived secretly in Havana on Wednesday and this Friday will be returning to Panama with the freed man in a Panamanian Air Force plane, according to what has been told to AFP.

The Cuban authorities have maintained total silence on this matter. According to information from private sources, the mission — which has been expected to be carried out promptly — unexpectedly delayed because Perez, at first refused to take advantage of the effort.

Perez was arrested in August 1959 for having participated in an anti-Castro conspiracy directed by the late Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, then dictator of the Dominican Republic.

HAITIAN 'EMBEZZLEMENT' IMPOSES HARDSHIP ON POOR

PA251544 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 May 87

["Our America" Commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The initial reports about the charges of state embezzlement against former Haitian dictator Francois [as heard] Duvalier — who is comfortably living in refuge in France — show to what extent the ousted regime took advantage of one of the poorest people in the world. Naturally, these charges are being raised by the new Port-au-Prince government, which is demonstrating it is merely an exchange formula sponsored by Washington. More than anything else, the current government's interest in bringing charges against Baby Doc is for propaganda purposes. Remember many of the current government's officials took advantages of the people for many years, under the protection of the tyrant, and made fortunes of dubious origins.

However, the disclosures that are made are always very interesting, as a reflection of the merciless nature of the U.S. embryos based in our region to safeguard its interests. According to the current Haitian authorities, it is believed that Jean-Claude Duvalier took some \$120 million out of the country. However, (Sober Vest), a lawyer who is trying to prevent a judiciary case against the former dictator on embezzlement charges, said that Henri Namphy, the current Haitian president, and General Obrey, Army chief of staff, were involved in these dirty operations.

However, when it comes to giving figures, the various versions continue to emerge, and (Francois Latroure) [as heard], the current Haitian justice minister estimates the wealth taken out of the country by the former dictator's family — including his wife Michelle Bennet, three of Baby Doc's sisters, his mother, and his main collaborators — amounts to \$900 million.

Finance Minister (Mark Vassin) [as heard] feels that the amount taken out by the former dictator amounts to \$600 million. The documents that raise the charges against Duvalier emphasize that (Jean Cambur), the former decorator of the Haitian presidential palace, was used to transfer the illegal funds to the former tyrant's bank accounts in Switzerland and the United States. The mechanisms used for such an embezzlement in a nation trapped by hunger, unemployment, and disease were a mockery of the people. Michelle Bennet, the obese former dictator's wife, used to collect thousands of dollars for charity purposes and social works that were never built, or through foreign company concessions in the most varied fields.

Now, the possibility of bringing Jean-Claude Duvalier to trial is bogged down in the discussion of whether it is legal or not to hold hearings in France, where the satrap lives comfortably while he wastes the wealth he stole in Haiti. According to experts, the polemics might last several months, during which time the alleged defendant will continue living like a king while persons raising the charges -- who will not be consistent, of course -- might decide to dismantle the propaganda device when they feel it is obsolete, and conclude the whole issue. However, for the thousands of Haitians who are being suppressed and are hungry, the plundering of the country is not a subject to be used for demagogic actions, but a fact that has taken a toll of innocent lives and imposes terrible sacrifices.

LATE ITEM: 'DESERTION' OF GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGED

PA291322 Paris AFP in Spanish 1244 GMT 29 May 87

[Text] Havana, 29 May (AFP) -- The Cuban Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces today confirmed Brigadier General Rafael del Pino's desertion to the United States, describing this decision as "infamous." According to the note released this morning, nothing "can justify the strange and treacherous conduct" of the deserter who in January, "permanently ceased to be a combat pilot" because of vision problems and "psychiatric stress [esures]."

The Cuban communique adds that Del Pino fled to the United States with his current wife, Laura Diego Suarez, and their daughter, and with two other children of his many previous marriages: Rafael, a minor, and Ramses, an Air Force pilot who was discharged in 1984 "for psychiatric reasons." The Cuban Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces condemned Del Pino's "disgusting treacherous act," but admitted that he had played an important role as a fighter pilot during the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961. The communique also stated that Del Pino "served as an internationalist in Angola"; however, it did not give further details.

According to the communique, Del Pino was still on active duty although, "for health reasons, he had been assigned tasks related to historical affairs, among them, the organization of the Air Force museum." The communique adds that with his "disgusting treacherous act," the deserter "has irreparably stained his life, history, and honor."